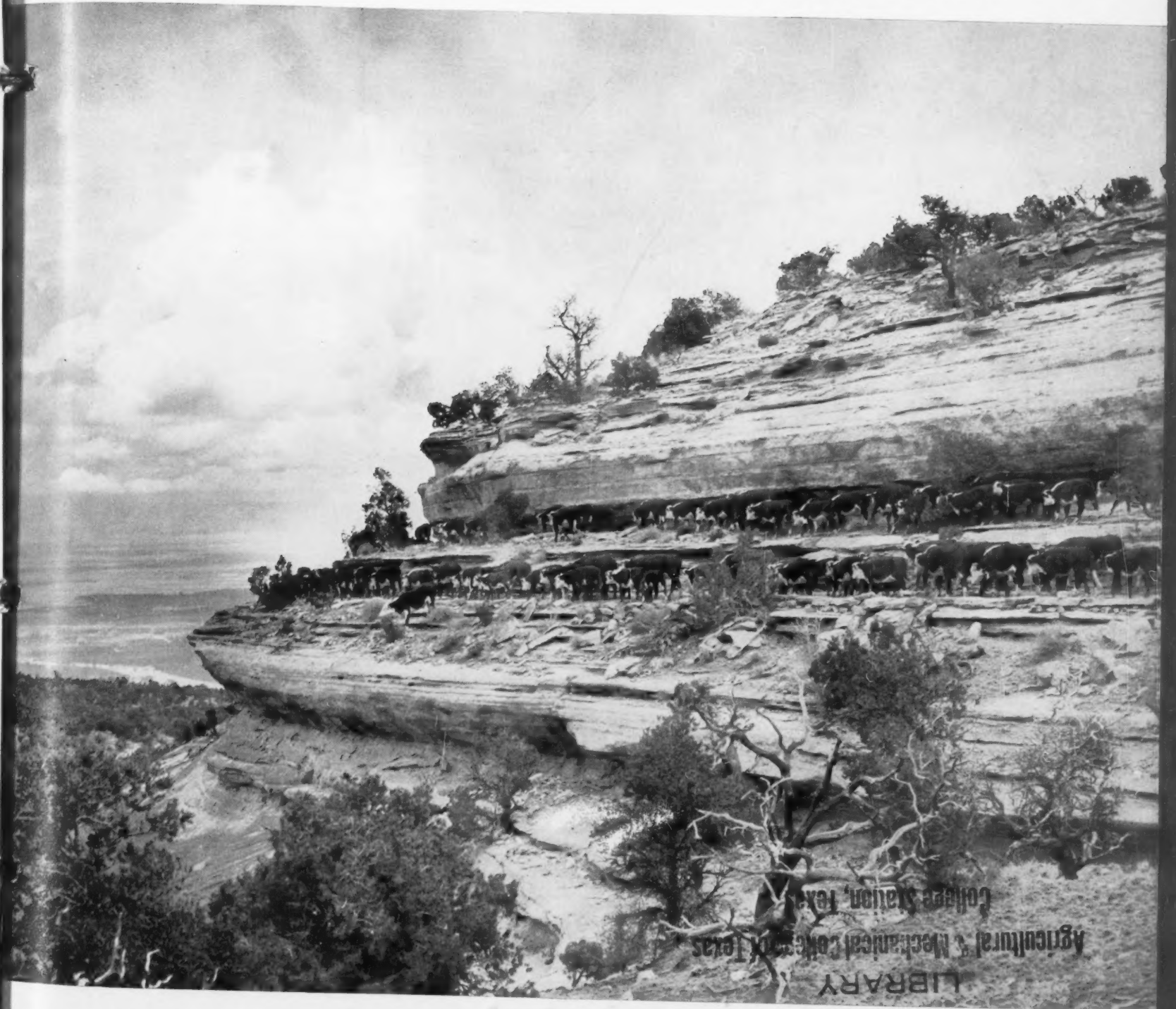


AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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Number 3

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON A SOUTH AMERICAN TRIP

By J. ELMER BROCK

[Readers of the PRODUCER will no doubt be curious to know the result of some of my observations on my recent trip to Brazil, Uruguay, and the Argentine. This trip was sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation for International Peace. The five members of my party represented different phases of agriculture. The political, educational and general conditions of these countries are probably of little concern to the average cattleman. I am therefore confining my remarks to the two controversial questions prevailing between the South American countries and the cattle industry of the United States. These are the sanitary and economic questions.]

BRAZIL

BRAZIL IS THE THIRD LARGEST cattle-producing nation in the world. Its present cattle population is estimated at 43,000,000 to 45,000,000 head. The cattle are of the zebu type, originating in India, with the exception of a few Shorthorns and Herefords in the extreme southern part of Brazil. Many of the cattle of Brazil are bred by comparatively small owners. These animals in turn are sold to large operators who move them to fattening pastures where they are finished on a mass-production scale.

The Brazilian steers usually move to a fattening pasture at three years of age and weigh around 800 pounds. There they are fattened at an annual cost of about \$5.50 (where the dollar is mentioned, it is the United States dollar, except as otherwise noted) per head. They go into fattening pastures at \$15 per head, and the price received for the finished animal is around \$23 to \$25. The cattle come into the fattening pastures from long trails, some of which are centuries old and lead back into the interior as far as 1,000 miles. Where the trails cross streams or go through settlements they are fenced. Here they are worn down in their full width, sometimes as much as ten feet below the original surface of the ground. We saw numerous trail herds coming from the interior. Active foot-and-mouth disease

was general in these herds. When the drags were allowed to lie down, they would have to be beaten before they got up, and many left bloody tracks every time they stepped. We helped load two trainloads of these cattle which were billed directly to a packing plant at Sao Paulo.

The zebu cattle are cousins to our Brahmas but are the opposite in disposition, being even much more quiet and gentle than our Herefords or Shorthorns. There are four types of these zebus—the Gyr, Nelore, Guzarath, and Indu-Brazil.

Much effort has been made in Brazil to find a way of immunizing cattle against foot-and-mouth disease. Scientists working on this told me they were making little or no progress. They surmised that the cattle which had for many years built up some immunity might not become infected with the same exposure that would contaminate our cattle which have no immunity. The common practice seems to be, when this disease breaks out in a herd, to get the animals all together and all infected as nearly at the same time as possible so they may get over it and fatten with the least disruption possible. A treatment has been established for the disease which consists of standing the cattle in the mud to draw the fever out of their

feet. Following several hours in the mud, they are driven through a foot bath of clean water to wash off the mud and then through a disinfectant to keep away flies. Many cattle which survive the disease but are not treated as above mentioned never recover from the effects of the disease and can never be fattened. As a result, these are never worth much more than their hides.

Some progress seems to have been made in expediting recovery by using serum made from the blood of animals that have recovered from the disease. The scientists told me there were so many strains of foot-and-mouth disease that when they discovered immunization for one strain it intensified the other strains. The disease was especially bad while we were in Brazil. At that time three or four outbreaks a year in every herd of cattle were expected. There is no pressure for exporting these cattle to the United States. The Brazilians clearly recognize the seriousness of this disease, and cattlemen in both Brazil and Uruguay advised us that if we did not have the disease in the United States we would be wise in taking no chances with it.

We attended a stock show in Uberaba and saw many of the finest cattle in Brazil. Some of the bulls were valued at as high as \$50,000, in their money. Among the thousands of cattle that we saw there was not a single bull with a ring in its nose. All were easily handled with a common halter.

One of the striking observations made was that contracts for cattle, in some cases with delivery dates as far off as six months, were verbal. Each party writes a memorandum of the agreement,



Members of the committee at airport in Comodoro Rivadavia, Territory of Chubut, Patagonia. Left to right: J. Elmer Brock; Harry Terrell; Dr. T. W. Schultz; Howard Hill; Allen Hayden, Chicago Daily News Correspondent; William Pape, estancia manager; James G. Patton, Denver; Dianna Pape.

which he keeps. There is no exchange of signatures nor of anything of value to bind the bargain. A violation of the agreement when once a trade is made is almost unknown. The cattle are all bought either by municipal plants of Brazil or by Armour, Swift, or Wilson. There is little or no competition. A fixed price is established, and the Brazilians

have no choice but to sell their cattle at this price or keep them. In spite of this highly monopolistic situation, the American packing plants came in and created markets where none existed before, and they have accomplished much in the way of improving the Brazilian cattle. We helped load the remnants of one entire herd. The owner was selling the animals

to purchase new stock of a full-blooded, improved breed. While the market situation is not to be commended, it is paving the way for a time when the cattlemen of Brazil will be able to assert themselves and establish competitive markets.

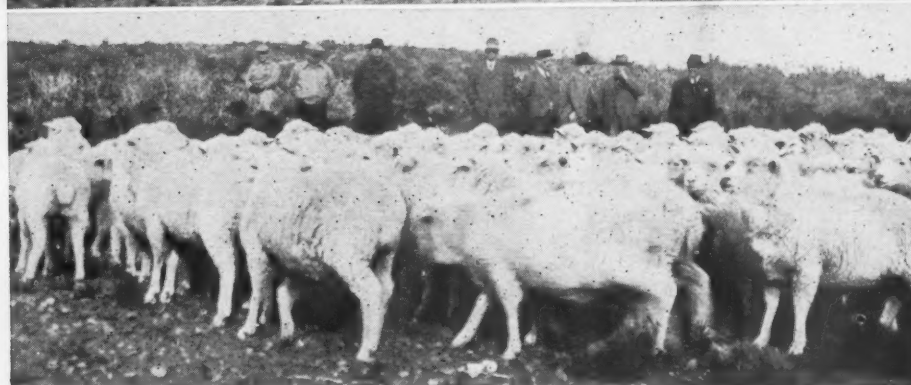
The cattle industry in Brazil was in a prosperous condition. The packers were riding the hills hundreds of miles back in the interior in all three of the countries we visited looking for more cattle to fill waiting contracts from Europe. These cattle are exported to England or canned for English and American trade. Some of the poorer grades and the front quarters of the better grades are made into jerked beef, or what is called *charqui*, to be marketed throughout the entire country where refrigeration is not available. This meat sells at 6 or 7 cents per pound, dried, and will keep for many months in the tropical climate. The meat which is canned in the three countries is not of superior grade, as reputed. As a matter of fact, some of the lowest grades of meat go into cans. A similar animal in the United States would go to a rendering tank. The reason for this is that the poorer animals are needed in the blending of the meat for canning.

European standards require not to exceed 18 per cent fat in canned meat, whereas the American trade demands not to exceed 14 per cent. We saw this meat being mixed in the processing and we saw the cattle of the grades described being bought in the market and were informed as to why a bunch of poor cattle must be bought to accompany a given number of fat animals going into the cans. The United States maintains certain supervision over the canning and requires that the cooking be done at an extremely high temperature in order thoroughly to sterilize this meat.

URUGUAY

THE cattle situation in Uruguay is practically that of Brazil, except that most of the cattle of the former country are of Hereford and Shorthorn breeds. All are grass fed. We did not get hold of a single piece of corn-fed beef in South America. The meat of the cattle of Brazil fattened on blade grass is a little bit firmer than that of the alfalfa finished cattle of the Argentine.

We observed the effects of foot-and-mouth disease on both sheep and cattle on the establishment of Alberto Gallinal. He showed herds of sheep with few lambs among them. He said this was due to the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease at lambing time, when he lost many lambs and many of the mothers. The same situation was true in the case of his cows and calves. There is a heavy death loss in poor livestock from foot-and-mouth disease. Again we were advised to take no chances of infecting our herds in the United States with foot-and-mouth disease. This operator informed us that he used a vaccine made in Germany to immunize his show cattle. The cost of this vaccine was from \$30 to \$40



Top: The type of zebu the Brazilian packers prefer. Center: Some of the zebus seen on the trip. Bottom: A point of sheep on Estancia La Nueva Oriental in the Province of Santa Cruz, Patagonia.

per animal, and the immunization lasted only fifteen days. It was therefore impractical for any use except to insure against a show animal becoming infected while on exhibition.

THE ARGENTINE

THE Argentine has a meat complex. We were met on the boat by a number of men, and they began discussing beef exports to the United States before I had even secured my landing card. The following morning we took a plane for Comodoro Rivadavia in Patagonia and 1,100 miles south of Buenos Aires.

On our arrival, I discovered sheep scab before we had gone three miles from the airport. It was there I learned that sheep scab was general throughout the Argentine and no serious efforts were being made to eradicate it. We were met at the airport by a government veterinarian who took great pains to tell us that Patagonia is free of foot-and-mouth disease, that no danger of infection prevails, and that all birds which might carry it are swimming birds and wash their feet.

I called his attention to the fact that in northern Patagonia the Argentine police department had reported numerous foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks after the Argentine sanitary pact had been approved by the Argentine and presented to the Foreign Relations Committee of the United States Senate by our Secretary of State. He made fresh claims as to absence of the disease and established a new line for Patagonia for sanitary purposes—the northern boundary being Parallel 42. This line is in no way a natural barrier. The guanaco, or wild llama, runs uncontrolled on both sides of the line. We saw the carrancho, a small eagle, tearing a rabbit to pieces. These birds are very numerous and prey upon lambs.

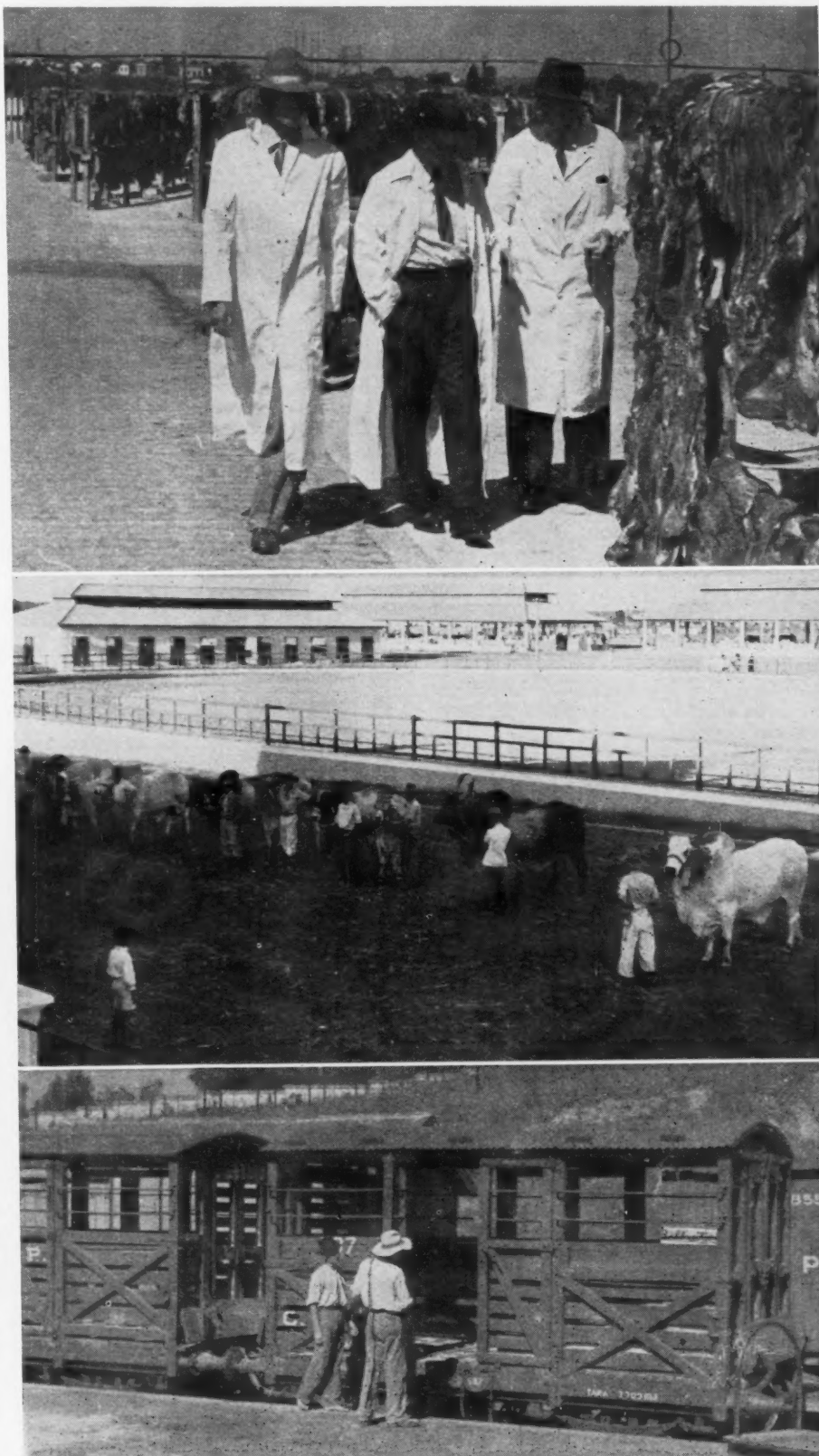
We received information from packers that they were at that time shipping meat from the contaminated areas of the Argentine into all parts of Patagonia. We were also reliably informed that bucks for breeding were shipped from infected areas of the Argentine to all parts of Patagonia each year. All these factors are considered by our scientists as means of transmitting the disease.

From my observations in Patagonia, I would say it would take several years of careful scrutiny to determine whether or not foot-and-mouth disease did exist there. We saw cattle scab prevalent and helped dip one bunch of cattle for this affliction. I saw cattle scab in the public market of Buenos Aires. No serious attempts are being made to eradicate this. No efforts at the control of or even a study in the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease are under way in the Argentine.

Nothing could justify our taking any chances at all with the importation of cattle from any part of the Argentine or Patagonia while this type of sanitary condition prevails. Our serious experi-

ences with the disease in the past and the expense in the eradication of it, said to exceed \$200,000,000, justify our taking no chances or accepting no modifications of the prevailing sanitary restrictions.

Our present sanitary restrictions are maintained uniformly against more than forty countries. If we once start dividing these nations into clean and unclean areas, it would certainly mean an early



Top: The author at Sao Paulo examines "charqui," long strips of beef dried in the sun and wind. Center: A cattle show put on for the visitors at Uberaba, Brazil. Bottom: Stock cars at Barretos, Brazil. Note the end doors. A full train can be loaded from rear car.

infestation of our clean flocks and herds. To make an exception of the Argentine, the worst offender in previous outbreaks, would constitute discrimination against all the other nations restricted by our sanitary embargo. There is but one sane, logical course for the Argentine to follow, and that is to clean up the disease in the entire Argentine as the United States has eradicated it here. Until it does that it has no justification for alleging discrimination, or reason for injured pride. If the Argentine should make a serious attempt to eradicate this disease, I would be willing to urge the United States to send some technical assistance, if it were requested by the people of Argentina.

We were recently amazed at the procedure of our State Department, when at its request, conveyed through the Department of Agriculture, the attorney general of the United States decided the highly technical sanitary problem by dividing the Argentine into two nations, whereby Tierra del Fuego was declared to be a new country. I am positive that, while this part of Patagonia may be separated by water from the state of Santa Cruz, it is certainly under the same Argentine sanitary regulations. This move constitutes not only a serious danger but a definite violation of the word and promise of the State Department. When my organization made the concession for the purchase of 20,000,000 pounds of canned meat for our military forces, we were told by no less a person than the undersecretary of state that we need have no further worry about the sanitary question with the Argentine. This arrangement was part of the agreement in the concession we made.

The conference at which the agreement was made was held the latter part of February; yet early in April the State Department requested the Department of Agriculture to ask for a ruling on this question of Tierra del Fuego from the attorney general. This momentous decision was made on May 16, yet the cattle industry of the United States first learned of it about the first of July, and then through a press dispatch from the Argentine. When Secretary Wickard was confronted by the secretary of our organization and a group of senators, he declared that he knew very little about it, and I think he stated the matter correctly.

A group of western senators was very much concerned, and at a later conference with the secretary apparently blocked any immediate importation of meat from Tierra del Fuego, the only exportable product of which is lamb, until the secretary causes to be made a full and thorough investigation. Such action on the part of our high officials and this violation of a promise and utter disregard for the welfare of our industry is indeed, to say the least, most startling. The verification and further amplification of this will be found in the *Congressional Record* of June 27, page 5727.

Certainly nothing could justify our taking any risk at this time with the meat supply so vitally essential to the needs of our civilian population and the military forces during this time of national preparedness.

ECONOMIC ANGLE

ON THE economic angle of importations of meat from the Argentine, I have this to say: We in the United States produced 1,000,000,000 pounds more meat last year than ever before in the history of our country. We have more sheep than we have had in the past fifty years, and hog numbers are being rapidly increased to normal under government stimulus. Cattle numbers at the end of this year may reach 75,000,000, which will be the largest number of cattle the United States has ever had. In fact, we already have what would be a burdensome surplus under normal economic conditions.

The only question involved at the moment is the canned meat which is named in the pending reciprocal trade agreement. A point in reference to our import duties which has not been developed before is as follows:

The regular tariff on a live steer weighing 1,000 pounds would be \$30. The same animal dressing 55 per cent would be \$33, in the carcass. This same 1,000-pound steer when converted into canned meat would weigh only 220 pounds and would come in at the normal duty of \$13.20. Therefore the canned meat duty is reduced more than 50 per cent over the normal duty on animals on the hoof or in the carcass, which leaves a very small import duty now prevailing. What is more, this canned meat would be processed abroad at an hourly wage of 14 to 21 cents, whereas the comparative wage here, according to Department of Labor figures, is 68 cents per hour.

I make this statement because of the fact that any benefits accruing from reductions of United States tariffs on canned meat that are not absorbed by the Argentine government in increasing its present 20 per cent export duty on this product would go to a comparatively small number of very wealthy Argentines. The masses would not benefit and thereby increase their buying power or better their conditions so they might in turn purchase American goods and be able to reflect even a small measure of reimbursement to the cattle industry of the United States which would make the sacrifice. Those of the Argentine receiving the benefits already have all the automobiles, radios, etc., that they can use. Furthermore, any material benefits to the cattle industry of the Argentine will intensify the sad plight of the worker. As an example of this, our party visited one estancia where thirty-five tenants, none of whom had been on the land less than twenty years, were being compelled to move away, abandoning their improvements without any compensation so that

the land might be plowed up and seeded to alfalfa upon which to raise cattle. These thirty-five tenants will be replaced by one gaucho receiving \$10 to \$12 per month.

The only benefit in trade relations with the Argentine which can in any way be reciprocal must take into consideration a means of improving the buying power of the masses. The purchase of their corn and other grains would help them much more than the purchase of beef. In any case, if the United States wants to buy good relations in Latin America, it is a national obligation which should be paid for by the people of the nation as a whole and not by the cattle industry or any other branch of American agriculture.

I found general prosperity prevailing in all three of the nations which we visited. There was no unemployment. Furthermore, there were many contracts for beef to go to England which could not be accepted because the packers were unable to secure a sufficient supply of cattle to fill them. As I have said, the packers are riding the hills hundreds of miles into the interior looking for more cattle.

No meat has accumulated in the coolers due to lack of shipment. I was through the coolers in all three countries. They were practically empty. This was due in part to the new method of processing to save space in shipping. All meat is boned and frozen in handy-sized packages.

* * *

After I had spent several weeks in an intensive study of the political, social, and economic structures, I began making comparisons with, and applying my findings to, my own country. I did this one day while I was 9,000 miles from my home. I wish you could all have this experience. It would make you better Americans. You would recognize virtues in your country which you had never seen before. You would at the same time develop an intense desire to suppress anything un-American which was being foisted upon your country under any pretext. We are making vast military preparations to oppose aggressor nations whose laws and forms of government are offensive to us. At the same time, we are accepting some of these objectionable features in government at home much more rapidly than we are suppressing them abroad. Here we would be wise to pause and ask ourselves what this may be doing to our effectiveness in our own national defense. I do not know any government on earth that we need to ape; yet, if we are to preserve Americanism, it is high time we took our eyes off sensational events across the waters and did a little home work.

Hogs, which are in demand for feasts, are the most popular animal in American Samoa, according to the Census Bureau, which reported 8,641. Cattle numbered 272; horses, mules, and colts, 121; and sheep, 34.

MOLLIN TESTIFIES IN TRADE PACT HEARINGS

ON JUNE 24, F. E. MOLLIN, SECRETARY of the American National Live Stock Association, appeared before the Committee for Reciprocity Information in the matter of negotiations for trade agreements with Argentina and Uruguay to present in behalf of the range cattlemen testimony in opposition to the proposed pacts. His statement follows:

ACTING SECRETARY WHITCOMB. Mr. Mollin, of the American National Live Stock Association.

(The witness was first sworn by the acting secretary.)

MR. MOLLIN. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee.

CHAIRMAN RYDER. Mr. Mollin. Go ahead.

MR. MOLLIN. Before I start on the statement I wish to make, I call your attention to one thing that was developed in the hearing here a year ago last fall. One of the members of the committee questioned me as to whether or not the omission from my brief filed at that time in relation to the trade agreement with Argentina and Uruguay, or specifically, Argentina, I believe—

CHAIRMAN RYDER. That is right.

MR. MOLLIN.—the omission of any reference to the Argentine sanitary convention or foot-and-mouth disease was meant to indicate that we had changed our position or were no longer concerned relative to those matters. I wish to assure the committee that the omission from the brief that we have filed this year, as was the case two years ago, was because of the fact that there is no reference in the announcement to the admission of fresh meats from South America, or of the sanitary embargo, Section 306-A of the Tariff Act.

Now, I have diligently examined the Reciprocal Trade Act to see if I could convince myself that this proceeding was really based on that act, and I just cannot find anything in the act itself which would seem to justify this proceeding at this time. In the first place, it starts out with the proposition that the act is for the purpose of expanding foreign markets for the products of the United States, and then throughout the whole major paragraph of the act repeated reference is made to America—the American producers, the American public, the American agriculture, and so on—but nowhere do I find a reference to the act having been passed for the purpose of expanding the foreign trade of foreign countries, only to the extent that that would be incidental to the declared purpose of the act, which would be expanding our foreign trade.

I do not believe, under the condition that exists today, that the making of

these trade agreements and the making of concessions on these many agricultural products would result in expanding the foreign trade of the United States.

It has been referred to here two or three times before this committee that we are being warned that we are going to have to curtail the use in this country of the very type of manufactured products that ordinarily would be the things that we would expect to export to Argentina and Uruguay, such as automobiles, refrigerators, and so forth, and therefore inasmuch as there seems a very slight chance of our getting any benefit—and of course it is supposed that in making these reductions on agricultural products that we are going to benefit through the increased purchasing power of the foreign countries which might buy some of our surpluses—in the absence of that increased purchasing power there does not seem to be any very satisfactory reason assigned as to why we should go ahead and reduce these agricultural duties.

It does not seem to me that there is any lawful manner in which you can lower the tariff on these many agricultural items simply for the purpose of improving Pan-American solidarity. I do not think it is in accordance with the spirit and intent of the law itself, and it seems to me that therefore we are proceeding more or less under a false premise.

Then we have been repeatedly told that the duties that were established in the Hawley-Smoot Tariff Act were too high and that the main purpose of the Reciprocal Trade Act was to lower those duties that were too high, to the point, as the law says, that they were "unduly burdening and restricting foreign trade."

I do not think that argument will stand up in connection with many of the items that are under consideration in this proceeding, and I will try later to develop that fact further. It does not seem to me that that argument is sufficient excuse to serve as the basis for this proceeding.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we are very genuinely concerned about the situation of the cattle industry in this country. Reference has been made in some of the statements by congressmen as to the very rapid expansion in production. Two years ago when I appeared before the committee I told you that the department was estimating that in that year we would have an increase of 1,000,000 head of cattle. That increase turned out to be 2,000,000 head instead of 1,000,000, and we followed it last year with an increase of almost 3,000,000;

yet I heard a representative of the Department of Agriculture speaking at a cattle meeting at Rapid City, South Dakota, just a few days ago state that in all probability before we reached the turn in production our cattle production would be up in the neighborhood of 78,000,000 head, which would be some 4,000,000 above the all-time peak record for this country.

Sheep production I believe also is now at an all-time peak, or at least I have checked with the department and they tell me that they cannot find anything to exceed it in the past fifty years.

The reciprocal trade program started just after we had sort of cleaned house in the cattle industry following the drought in 1934. The various reductions that have been made in agricultural duties under the Canadian trade agreement came at a time when we were reducing our slaughter and building up our herds in the country, so that we have not yet had a time when we would know what the full effect of these reductions would be; but we are approaching that time. I would like just to leave with the committee—I do not care to enter it in the record, particularly—but I have a little booklet that I issued recently, entitled "Livestock Facts," that gives some interesting information relative to slaughter in this country. We have reached the turning point in our slaughter, but we will not reach the turning point in total numbers, as I have previously stated, for two or three years yet.

More interesting than the fact that we have reached the turning point in slaughter is the fact that just this year—since the first of the year—we have reached the turning point in the slaughter of she-stuff. That is the final determining factor in what is going to happen in our industry: when we begin to slaughter more she-stuff. Every month this year, for the first four months—I have not been able to get the May figures yet—the percentage of she-stuff in the total slaughter has been greater than in the same month a year ago. In this little booklet I just handed you, you will find on page 7 a table which gives the inspected slaughter in percentages, and you will see that in 1935—

CHAIRMAN RYDER (interposing). You refer to it in your testimony. You had better introduce it in the evidence as an exhibit.

ACTING SECRETARY WHITCOMB. That will be Exhibit 4.

(The booklet entitled "Livestock Facts" is filed as Exhibit No. 4.)

MR. MOLLIN. In 1935 the percentage of she-stuff in our slaughter amounted to 56.02. We reached a low in 1940 of 45.93.

Now, as I say, for the first four months of this year, each month we have increased the slaughter of she-stuff. That will have to continue for two or three years yet before we reach the

point where we have controlled production so that our total numbers will be less than they were the previous year.

I remember that when I was before you two years ago we discussed the availability of supplies of meat of a type suitable for canning, and it is this very type of meat, when we begin to increase the she-stuff slaughter, that is or would be available for canning as well as for other purposes, such as the ground-meat trade. We are entering into a period where for a good many years probably around 50 per cent of our slaughter—we will get up considerably above 50 per cent when we reach the peak of liquidation—will be she-stuff, and they will naturally be, a great many of them, the type that they are culling out of their herds in an effort to control production and get back onto a sound basis again.

We cannot tell when we are going to hit the price break that we know is coming. Everything is upset by the war; but we know it is coming—maybe one year, maybe two years, maybe three years, depending on how long the emergency programs continue, how long we maintain a big armed force, and so on. When we get up to the point where we have close to 80,000,000 cattle on hand—and we may reach that point about the same time as the conclusion of the war—I think that the cattle industry of this country is going to face one of the most serious situations it has ever faced.

I referred a moment ago to the Cana-

dian trade agreements. You will recall that the reason given for reducing the tariff on cattle weighing more than 700 pounds from 3 cents a pound to 1½ cents—that is the total reduction in the two agreements—of course it was stated that the tariff of 3 cents was a barrier to trade. I might call attention to the fact that there has been no reduction in the tariff on cattle weighing from 200 to 700 pounds, and that our imports from Mexico of that type of cattle in the first three months of this year were 150,000—so far as I know, the largest importation of that type of cattle from Mexico in any similar period in our history—150,000 head of that one class in three months.

Again referring to the Canadian trade agreement. One of the concessions that Canada granted to us I believe in the first agreement was a concession on pork—I do not remember just exactly when it was—but a few months ago, when our market on hogs was at a very distressed level and when the Canadian market, with the help of the demand from England, went on a very high level, relatively, they shut out our hog exports to Canada because they wanted that trade to themselves; and now when the situation is reversed and when we have the most attractive market, with the aid of this tremendous government purchasing program, we find Canadian hogs and Canadian pork coming into this market—and Uncle Sam as usual is playing the Santa Claus role and taking

it. I have the figures here as to the March, April, and May imports of hogs and pork; and, while they are not tremendous, in March we received 1,800,000 pounds of pork; April, 2,800,000; and in May, 2,000,000 pounds. There is an example of the working of reciprocity, Canadian style.

It seems unbelievable that with the world in chaos, with our production plainly approaching the danger point, and with another 10,000,000 acres to be taken out of wheat next year that a trade agreement would even be considered at this time. The wheat acreage is a real threat, because we find when we examine the record of the cattle census for January 1, 1941, that the biggest increase in that 2,865,000 head increase was in the Corn Belt, where they had been taking these large acreages out of corn and wheat. The Corn Belt states increased their production 6 per cent last year. The West increased 3 per cent, and the South, 3 per cent. The total for the nation was 4 per cent.

In the seventeen western states we had on hand January 1, 1941, almost 5,000,000 head fewer cattle than we had on January 1, 1934. That is particularly because of the drought, and there are still areas in our country that are not really stocked to normal capacity, and if they go ahead and stock to normal capacity and the increase continues in the Corn Belt, with the big acreage added on to feed-producing crops, why, we are just heading for the worst headache this country ever saw.

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In the history of millions of Blacklegol vaccinations, the records show that only three blackleg deaths have been proved by laboratory examination, with one additional doubtful case. In other words, Blacklegol is 99.999% certain to protect for life against blackleg.

Regardless of claims, Blacklegol cannot be imitated, for it is produced by a special process developed and patented by Cutter. Insist on it! 10¢ a dose; less, in quantities.

CUTTER Laboratories • Berkeley, Calif. • Since 1897

I would like to say just a word as to the attitude of Argentina toward the trade with the United States. I have here a clipping from the Washington *Times Herald* of September 10, 1940. It is under a Buenos Aires, Argentina, headline of September 9, quoting former Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cantillo, and it says:

"My country is in favor of continental defense against aggression, but we Argentines also are believers in the benefits of autonomous action. We cannot undertake alliances or make commitments that overlook the fact that Argentina's markets are in Europe, not the United States."

That was just about the time that we had appropriated \$500,000,000 for the purpose of making loans—I think they called them "loans" to South American countries, for the handling of their surpluses. Then he goes on to say:

"If the United States is eager to lend money, it will be hard for Argentina or any other South American country to turn down the loans, but we all will accept loans with the knowledge that it will settle no problem whatever. At best, a loan will be merely a gesture of good will."

The president of our association, J. Elmer Brock, returned from Argentina a week ago yesterday, and he left a letter for me at the hotel. I have not had an opportunity to see him. In that letter he gives some very interesting information about the situation in that country. He was there as a member of

a committee sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation, and they stopped in Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina and were gone from this country something over two months. He tells me that all three countries, Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina, exact a heavy export duty on meat. His letter states:

"This is effectuated through blocked currency. For instance, when the United States buys beef in the Argentine the United States dollar buys only 3.35 pesos of meat, whereas the free exchange is 4.20 pesos per U. S. dollar.

"This makes an export duty of from 20 to 24 per cent. The British are preferred and are getting by on about half this export tax."

He also goes on to correct a wrong impression which I have had and which I think the great majority of people have had in this country, that there is piling up in Argentina as a result of a lack of shipping space a tremendous surplus of meat.

Mr. Brock states:

"The packers have had trouble getting enough cattle to supply their demands since January. Their coolers are empty and shipping has relieved them of any accumulation, whatever rumors you may hear to the contrary. I was in the coolers of all three of these countries and have the same story from all. Packer buyers are riding the hills hundreds of miles back in the country trying to get enough cattle to keep their contracts filled. One American packer in Argentina told me a contract which they were supposed to have filled by the end of

August had already been exceeded at the time I was there and that they were still trying to get more meat. There is definitely no need to relieve the Argentine of surplus beef."

Then, with relation to the beneficiaries of any reduction which we might make in tariffs for the benefit of Argentina, he calls my attention to the fact that they have an entirely different economy than we have in this country. The main beneficiaries of any reductions on livestock products would be the big packing-houses and the big owners of the estancias, where they have practically peon labor, paying them little or nothing in cash, and they operate on a basis that this country does not even want to compete with. I do not mean from the sense that we do not want to compete with any foreign country on a reasonable tariff basis, but I mean we do not want to lower ourselves to their economy, their type of operation.

Then there has been another common misapprehension, and we discussed it two years ago here, in the extreme close of my argument. Mr. Foley called my attention to the fact—I am sorry he is not here—that some of this Argentine canned beef was not all it was cracked up to be. We have heard these great stories about putting the best quality cattle into the cans because they cannot sell them otherwise, and I think most people in this country believe that; but I have here a sheet torn from the *Times of Argentina* for Monday, January 13,

Cutter Blacklegol prevents blackleg only... **ARE YOU PROTECTED AGAINST THESE OTHER LOSSES?**

VACCINATE NOW AGAINST ENCEPHALOMYELITIS (Horse Sleeping Sickness)

—with Cutter Encephalomyelitis Vaccine. Don't wait until encephalomyelitis breaks among your own or your neighbor's horses, as then it will be too late to save many of your best animals. Vaccination now gives reliable protection for the season.

USE CUTTER K. R. S. FOR SCREW-WORMS

New improved Cutter K.R.S. formula kills maggots more quickly without decreasing repellent action. Squirt new K.R.S. into infested wound and watch the maggots boil out. If K.R.S. doesn't prove more effective than any killer or repellent, alone or in combination, you've ever used, return the empty can for a refund of your money.

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REMEMBER!
Whatever the trouble — if a vaccine or a serum will control it, Cutter makes it!

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1941, and at that time they appeared to be worrying about shipping. It says:

"Canned meats can be shipped in by 'tramps,' but they are created from animals of the low category. Fat is a disadvantage for canning. Thus, the scarcity of refrigerated tonnage means it is bringing with it a reduction of demand for high-quality animals and an increase in demand for thin cattle."

Mr. Brock's letter tells me that

"English regulations fix a maximum of fat content at 18 per cent, whereas in the American trade 14 per cent is the maximum. Since it costs money to knife out this surplus fat, the common practice is to buy the poorest emaciated cattle they can get at high prices, compared to the better stuff, for the purpose of mixing this meat to reduce the fat content. There is no secret about this."

"I saw cows—Shorthorns—weighing about 1,300-1,400 pounds, gobby with fat, which sold for 24.60 pesos per kilo, which is, roughly, 3 cents per pound. I saw some of the most emaciated old canner cows which were sold, I was told, to mix with this other bunch in the can, which brought 18 pesos per kilo, or about 2½ cents a pound U. S."

Congressman Coffee in his splendid argument yesterday called attention to the fact that the tariff on cattle that go into canning, on a live-animal basis, is equivalent to 1.2 cents per pound and that the freight on the 200 pounds that would be derived from the 1,000-pound animal would be 70 cents to this country. Taking Mr. Brock's statement as to the cost of the cattle down there—and I have corroborative testimony on price—taking that to be an average of about 2½ cents per pound, we find that the animals cost \$4.40 delivered to this country. I checked this point with the Department of Agriculture; and I find that for cutter and common cows, in Chicago, the average price for the month of May was 6.9 cents per pound; canner cows, which are below cutter and common, 5.83 cents.

Then consider the fact that the cost of canning and processing in South America is about a quarter of what it is in this country—Mr. Brock tells me that they are paying, I think it was 17 cents—17 to 21 cents in the Argentine for the highest paid labor of that type against 67 cents in the United States, and I think the differential is even greater in the case of ranch labor. Cowboys in this country draw a minimum of \$40 and up as high as \$75. I do not think they can really translate it into real money down there. You can see that with the present tariff of 1.2 cents per pound, live basis, the American industry is at a hopeless disadvantage in competition with South American meat.

Furthermore, if you reduce the tariff on canned beef, you are going to give the importer of canned beef a very unfair advantage in competition with domestic canned pork. A few weeks ago I stopped over in Ann Arbor, Michigan, to visit my son, and I went with him to a grocery store, and I saw on the shelf side by side Argentine canned beef at 18 cents the twelve-ounce can and "Spam,"

manufactured by Hormel, at Austin, Minnesota, at 27 cents the twelve-ounce can.

If you reduce the tariff on canned beef, you are going to operate to the disadvantage of the American hog producer as well as to the disadvantage of the cattle producer.

Now, with regard to hides. I have just checked the imports for the first four months of this year and I find that we imported in those four months 2,184,195 pieces of cattle hides. That is almost one-half the imports for the full year 1940, which are shown in my brief and which are the heaviest in many years. The April imports this year were 665,440 hides—the heaviest in any month since 1920, at least. I talked to a representative of the Department of Commerce, and he told me he had checked back to 1920, but not farther, and had found no month in that entire time when we had imported as many hides as we imported in April of this year. That was almost three times as many as in April of last year.

Under the Reciprocal Trade Act we have the right to believe that the tariff on hides will not be reduced until the President finds as a fact that the 10 per cent duty is "unduly burdening and restricting trade."

In view of the recent tremendous imports, how could you certify to the President as a fact that this duty is too high? I can remember away back when Secretary Hull stated that the tariff was to be scientifically adjusted under the Reciprocal Trade Act. If you reduce the tariff on hides and on canned beef, already too low by any possible method of computation, you are in fact serving notice to the country that tariff making under the Reciprocal Trade Act has descended to the level of mere expediency.

The farmers of this country and the livestock producers have been asked to co-operate in the defense program. They have been asked to market more cattle—Mr. Wickard has issued two or three statements of that kind—and we are marketing more cattle. They have been asked to produce more hogs and more dairy products and more poultry products and more corn and more beans. It seems to me it would constitute a breach of faith on the part of the administration to write down the tariff on the many agricultural products listed in these proposals at the very time that the agricultural industry of this country is going "all out" in its effort to comply with the requests of the administration in regard to production.

It seems to me that since this loan or appropriation was made last fall of \$500,000,000, to which I previously referred, we have a right to expect that, if that loan was to be made for the purpose of handling South American surpluses, we would not within a few months find an effort being made to dump those surpluses into the United States.

There isn't any defense argument in connection with the making of these

agreements. None of these products are needed for defense purposes. They are moving freely into this country already.

Now, I do not wish to take the time to go into the many other products listed, in any detail, but I do want to call attention to just one thing. Fats and oils prices until very recently have been very low. I notice that in addition to listing the tariff on oleo oil and tallow and other types of oil, you also list the excise taxes. I have before me a copy of the transcript of my testimony before this committee a year ago last fall, and I had some discussion with Mr. Arner about the tariff on tallow and I asked the question, "Does the 3-cent excise tax apply to the edible?" And Mr. Arner replied, on page 472 of the transcript, "It applies to both. We would not be able to touch the excise tax. If we reduce the duty from ½ cent to a ¼ cent, would that injure the domestic product?" That is referring to tallow.

Apparently at that time it was the impression of the committee that you did not have the power to reduce an excise tax; but, from the fact that you have listed the item for treatment in this proceeding, I suppose you have some new power or new interpretation of the law.

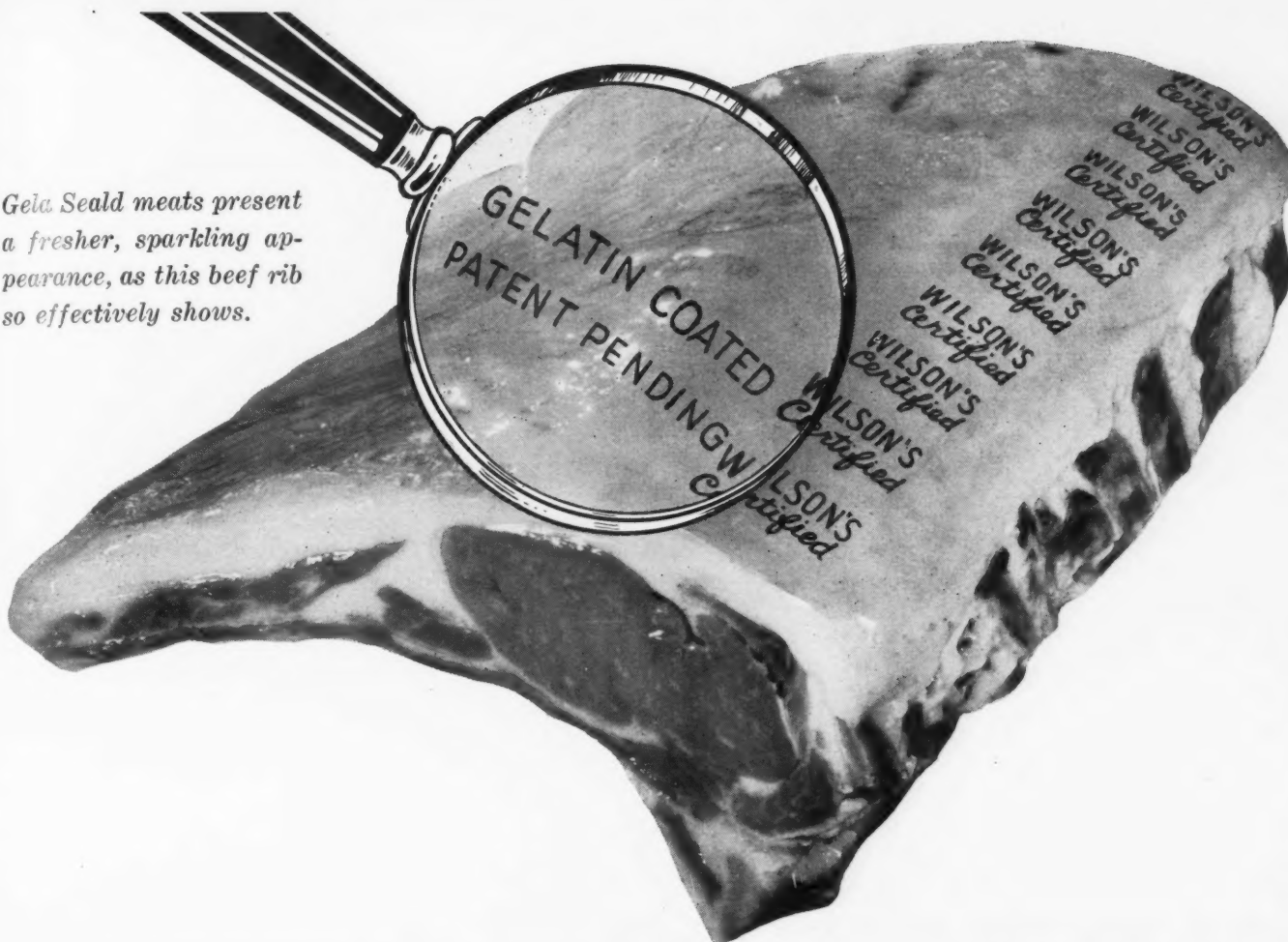
CHAIRMAN RYDER. There is no new power. There must have been some misstatement by Mr. Arner there, because on several different agreements excise taxes have already been reduced.

MR. MOLLIN. I would like to call attention to the fact that many fat cattle that are being marketed today are losing as much as \$40 per head. You will find the same reports coming from all markets. These heavy cattle that have been fattened perhaps to a very great degree, as we do in the way of increasing the production of meat, are actually losing as high as \$40 per head.

No one knows how much the government is subsidizing the American farmer today. I do not think you could go to any individual in the department off-hand and get anything like an exact statement, but perhaps to the extent of something like \$1,000,000,000 in direct subsidy and to the extent of something like \$500,000,000 in indirect, such as loans made by the Commodity Credit Corporation, the tremendous appropriations for the stamp plan, and so on.

It seems to me that the question you must decide is whether you are going to act or not act so as to benefit the nearly 5,000,000 farmers in this country who produce livestock, or in the interest of the packing plants and the landed gentry of Argentina and Uruguay, where peon labor is employed and an entirely different economy exists than is ours. It would appear to be sheer folly at this time to attempt to forecast what conditions will obtain in the world at the conclusion of the war; but, if you carry out this proceeding and reduce these many agricultural tariffs, you are placing the great majority of our farmers and livestock producers in a more vulnerable position. I would not want the

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Gela Seald meats stay sweet and fresh longer—keep their eye-appealing "bloom" better. In Gela Seald beef, veal and lamb, housewives not only get all the natural juiciness, tenderness and healthful

food elements sealed in while the meat is "cooler-fresh," but the edible animal gelatin is itself a recognized builder of energy, strength and stamina.

The Gela Seald process, the newest meat research development, is helping Wilson & Co. move meat economically and efficiently from producers to consumers. It is also helping producers by contributing toward improved and more stable livestock markets.



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responsibility that will be yours if you lower these tariffs now; then you will be forced to sit idly by when the break comes, when we will urgently need all the protection that we now have and more, too, and be powerless to lend a hand to repair the damage.

In all fairness to the American producers, this proceeding should be discontinued and the status quo maintained until we know something about where we are going and what we will find when we get there.

CHAIRMAN RYDER. Are there any questions?

MR. ARNER. Do we produce any appreciable quantity of canned beef in this country at all?

MR. MOLLIN. Only on order from the government.

MR. ARNER. How much does it cost to produce it in this country?

MR. MOLLIN. Well, I have not seen any recent figures, but it is considerably above the South American basis, and that is why the government has wanted to buy some South American canned beef for defense purposes; and the committee of our association, after extended conferences with various officials of the government, agreed that we would not oppose the importation of 20,000,000 pounds of canned beef for defense purposes during the fiscal year 1941.

MR. ARNER. How high would the tariff have to be before we could produce canned beef in competition with imported Argentine beef?

MR. MOLLIN. I could not answer that. Of course, right now I think the differential is greater than ever, because for the first time in a long time we have had a pretty good level of prices for the last two or three years, and we are making up for some of the losses for the previous years; but the fact remains that under the existing tariff we have had imports that have averaged up around 80,000,000 pounds of canned beef, which are about the same level as imports prior to the enactment of the Hawley-Smoot Tariff Act.

MR. ARNER. Wouldn't that indicate that we have a shortage of the type of meat which would naturally be put into cans? Don't we have a market for all that we can produce of that type of beef in sausages, hot dogs, and so forth?

MR. MOLLIN. Well, I do not think it indicates a shortage. Of course, at the time, as I explained to you, that we have been building up our herds in the country, which can only be done at the expense of holding back breeding stock, in that period naturally you are going to market less of the lower grade cattle. Now we have reached the turning point, and there is going to be no shortage, or no relative shortage. It is just a question of how it is going to be used, whether it is going to be put into the can or whether it is going to be sold in some other way.

MR. ARNER. Are most of these cattle

that are used for dried beef and so on, are they old dairy cows, or what is the type of beef that is used?

MR. MOLLIN. For canning?

MR. ARNER. Yes.

MR. MOLLIN. They are what are ordinarily called "canner" and "cutter" cows, and they are partly dairy cows and partly old cows from the ranch. Every ranch operator culls his herd every year. Many of them use an age brand on the jaw, and they have a fixed rule that when a cow reaches a certain age it goes to market.

MR. ARNER. Am I right in saying it is the same type of beef that goes into frankfurters that goes into cans?

MR. MOLLIN. Well, I think that in the frankfurters and bolognas there is a lot of bull beef, and in the canned beef it is more the type of cows we have been discussing.

CHAIRMAN RYDER. Thank you, Mr. Mollin. We are glad to have had your testimony.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ANLSA MEETS

SEVENTY-FIVE LEADING STOCKMEN from fourteen states, in an executive committee meeting of the American National Live Stock Association at Colorado Springs, Colorado, July 18-19, adopted the following resolutions:

Condemning the opinion of the attorney general "declaring Tierra del Fuego to be in effect a separate country" . . . as a subterfuge to break down the sanitary embargo by administrative action;

Opposing further cuts in duties on any livestock products in pending trade agreements with Argentina and Uruguay;

Opposing power that would be granted in the Doughton-Johnson bills, permitting importation, duty-free, and cancellation of present restrictions, because "it is a great threat to the livestock industry from both the sanitary and competitive standpoint;"

Opposing the Gillette bill which would restrict livestock marketing;

Urging cattlemen to conform to the requests of the Secretary of Agriculture to increase cattle marketing;

Urging the BAI to furnish Strain 19 abortion vaccine within the means available to all who ask for it without requiring the blood test;

Recommending to state sanitary officials that they agree upon a plan whereby vaccinated heifers up to two years of age, properly identified, may move interstate without the necessity of the blood test;

Urging the Selective Service Board to place in deferred classifications those men who are shown to be essential to the operation of a ranch.

The following resolution was passed, after a conference with Grazing Director R. H. Rutledge and his assistants:

"That the summary of the study [to fix reasonable fees] be amended to include interest of 5 per cent on the total investment in ranch land and improve-

ments, including the livestock, at \$40 per animal unit of the carrying capacity in cattle, and that the fee, when so determined, be subject to revision from year to year on the basis of price fluctuation, and from a base period to be agreed upon. . . . That final results of the studies be resubmitted to users."

By way of motion adopted, the association "unalterably opposed price-fixing." A motion recognizing existence already of a form of price-fixing asked "That we give notice and prepare to file briefs in regard to price-fixing and our position thereon on all commodities affecting us." It also carried.

Albert K. Mitchell, former president of the American National, explained to the committee the elaborate work that the National Livestock and Meat Board has been doing in the interest of national defense through instructions in Army camps on the subject of meat cutting and cooking.

Jay Taylor, of Amarillo, urged the stockmen to get their state associations to follow the example of Texas in collecting 1 cent a head for the Meat Board on all cattle marketed, the packers to match this.

J. Elmer Brock, who recently returned from a trip to South America, reported on his findings, with particular reference to the foot-and-mouth disease situation.

Frank Boice, of Arizona, chairman of the legislative committee, gave a report on the many conferences his committee had in Washington in February of this year, an important one of which was the conference that secured concession from government departments that the sanitary embargo would not be disturbed. The committee at that time gave its approval to importation of a limited amount of South American canned meat.

Secretary F. E. Mollin reported on the status of matters pending in Washington in which the livestock industry is interested and made recommendations for a course of action to be followed. He has made three trips to Washington since the Fort Worth convention last January.

The committee on brand, theft, and sanitary regulations in interstate commerce, after full discussion, voted approval of the Kleberg bill, H. R. 5204, to make permanent the authorization of brand inspection work at markets—an authority which has for years been carried as a rider to appropriation legislation. At the same time the committee approved referring to Senator Connally, of Texas; Senator O'Mahoney, of Wyoming; and Senator Downey, of California, a further amendment to the Packers and Stock Yards Act which was desired by the California association in connection with its state brand inspection work. The action of the committee on brand, theft, and sanitary regulations in interstate commerce was approved by the executive committee.

COLORADO STOCKMEN ENLARGE FOREST BOARD

ON JUNE 19-21 MEMBERS AND friends of the Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association numbering more than 600 gathered in convention at Alamosa, giving evidence of the broadening interest and appreciation of the work being done by that organization.

Following the call to order by President Howard Linger, reports of Treasurer George S. Green and Secretary B. F. Davis were read and approved.

A proposal to increase membership of the association's forestry advisory board from five to fourteen members was explained by Glen A. Smith, assistant regional forester. Discussion by the permittees and forest officials resulted in adoption of a resolution so to amend the association's constitution and by-laws.

Representing the forests are the following: Arapahoe Forest—Frank Smith, Kremmling; Cochetopa—James Curtis, Saguache; Grand Mesa—Thomas McKelvie, Collbran; Gunnison—George H. Adams, Jr., Gunnison; Montezuma—Harry T. Nix, Norwood; Pike—Fred Hammer, Woodland Park; Rio Grande—A. E. Headlee, Monte Vista; Roosevelt—Paul Hummel, Boulder; Routt—A. H. Norell, Walden; San Isabel—Ralph C. Callin, Siloam; San Juan—Harry Wommer, Bayfield; Uncompahgre—Floyd Beach, Delta; White River—Arthur Wilbur, Meeker. The representative for Holy Cross forest was to be named later.

The first afternoon's session opened with addresses of welcome by Mayor Frank C. Winters, Alamosa, and William A. Shellabarger, Moffat, president of the San Luis Cattlemen's Association. Response was made by Albert V. Berg, Morley, vice-president of the Colorado association.

Following a detailed report on the work of the thirty-third general assembly, by Secretary Davis, Dr. R. M. Gow, state veterinarian, opened a discussion on the Bang's program. Dr. A. H. Francis, of the BAI, explained the government program. J. J. Drinkard, Denver, then spoke of the central livestock markets. Albert V. Berg, Morley, conducted an open forum on "purchase of tax delinquent lands by state and national governments."

Speakers on the second day's program were: Russell Rose, regional grazer; Judge Clifford H. Stone, secretary, Colorado water conservation board; F. E. Mollin, secretary, American National Live Stock Association; Roy M. Green, president, Colorado College of Agriculture; Mike E. Noonan, Kremmling, president, Colorado Wool Growers' Association; Otis E. McIntyre, Colorado Springs, vice-president, state game and fish commission; Rilea Doe, vice-president, Safeway Stores; and Governor Ralph Carr. In attendance at the convention was Colorado's ex-Governor Adams, who spoke briefly to the group.

An interesting development at the meeting was the vote to form a woman's auxiliary, with a contest to be held to determine its name.

The final day was turned over to the transaction of new business—reports of boards and committees.

Resolutions adopted by the Colorado stockmen—

Increased membership of the forestry advisory board to fourteen members;

Opposed appropriation and regulation of public waters without regard to the "vested rights" of the stockmen;

Urged that brand inspectors familiarize themselves with the new regulations and requested that the state board of stock inspection commissioners issue orders requiring enforcement of the live-stock sales ring and bill of sale law;

Opposed further withdrawal of forest and grazing lands for creation or enlargement of national parks and monuments;

Opposed transfer or consolidation of the Grazing Service and the Forest Service;

Requested approval of the McCarran cattle theft bill;

Recognized necessity for central markets, and recommended that stockmen patronize them whenever possible;

Pledged continued co-operation to avoid and discourage strikes, walkouts, and price-fixing combinations in connection with the industry;

Opposed the Gillette bill, S.1199;

Endorsed the principles of the Johnson bill, S.1030, but urged that the definition of commensurability contained therein be eliminated;

Protested against further reductions in duties in the negotiations with Argentina and Uruguay;

Opposed the fixing of a 15-cent ceiling on hides, as "the price fixed is too low in relation to other current values;"

Urged adoption by state sanitary officials of regulations of the BAI pertaining to interstate movement of cattle;

Urged that Congress decrease unnecessary "relief" expenditures and pledged acceptance of the membership of the "discontinuance of payments for range or soil conservation;"

Expressed appreciation to President Linger for the fine work he has done for the organization;

Confirmed acts of the officers, directors, and legislative committee of the American National Live Stock Association and extended thanks;

Expressed thanks and appreciation to congressmen, legislators, Governor Carr, and State Veterinarian Dr. Gow for the fine work done for the industry, and urged Dr. Gow's reappointment to his present post;

Extended sympathy to families and friends of those who have passed away during the past year.

Officers elected for the ensuing year were: President, Albert V. Berg, Morley; first vice-president, Charles P. Murphy, Spicer; second vice-president, Frank Fehling, Nathrop; treasurer, George S.

Green, Golden; and secretary, Dr. B. F. Davis, Denver.

Steamboat Springs was selected as the site for the 1942 convention.

NEW MEXICO BOARD PASSES IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association at its first quarterly meeting at which more than 300 association members were in attendance adopted resolutions as follows:

Approved the appointments of Albin D. Molohon as chief of the branch of range management for the Grazing Service, John J. Dempsey, as undersecretary of the interior;

Opposed, in regard to the pending reciprocal trade agreements with foreign countries, "any act that would lessen or vacate the present sanitary laws which would permit frozen or chilled meat entry from any country afflicted with foot-and-mouth disease;"

Favored passage of the McCarran national cattle theft bill;

Held that fixing the 15-cent ceiling on hides "establishes a precedent dangerous to the democratic form of government, and the results will be punitive to the producer if parity is to be the yardstick by which our government wishes to aid agriculture;"

Endorsed the principles of S. 1030;

Approved the Grazing Service's "method of determining a reasonable fee under section 3 of the Taylor Grazing Act on the basis of ranch costs and income data . . . [but], "when so determined, be revised from year to year on basis of central market product price fluctuations;"

Opposed the Gillette bill, S. 1199, "for its express purpose is to control packer purchases of fat cattle."

ASSOCIATION NOTES

SOUTHWESTERN MONTANA Livestock Association members voted recently in Miles City to join the American National. "This association," writes Milton C. Simpson, president, in a letter to the American National Livestock Association, "was formed in 1938 as a protective organization, but we thought, because of the small producers we have as members who receive the benefits of your good work without helping to pay for it, that we should become a member as an association. I had the honor of being elected president, and Jack Mini-fee, secretary, of this organization."

CCA MOVES OFFICES

Offices of the California Cattlemen's Association have been moved to larger quarters on the third floor of the Sharon Building, 55 New Montgomery Street, San Francisco, directly across from the Palace Hotel. The move, according to President Ted Chamberlin, was made in the interest of a more central location in the city for the convenience of members.

OPPOSE IMPORTATIONS

Opposition to importation of Argentine livestock products was expressed in a resolution passed at the Arizona Wool Growers' Association's fifty-second annual convention at Flagstaff recently. Other resolutions favored keeping the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture and urged co-operation with the Forest Service.

NEW STOCK INSPECTION BOARD

Colorado's governor, Ralph Carr, recently named the following men as members of the state board of stock inspection commissioners: Dr. R. M. Gow, re-named state livestock veterinary commissioner, Denver; A. A. Smith, Sterling, and Howard Linger, Hooper, past presidents of the Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association; Arthur Allen, contractor and cattleman, Pueblo; and Paul Taussig, rancher and veterinarian, Parshall.

COMMITTEE WARNS AGAINST FOOT-AND-MOUTH DANGER

A JULY 19 DISPATCH FROM Buenos Aires "that the action of the United States in lifting the ban on the importation of Argentine beef . . . was believed connected with the recent visit to Argentina of a qualified group of American stockmen" was referred to by F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, as a case of wishful thinking.

Apparently, Mollin said, the dispatch is based upon the opinion of the attorney general of May 16, released in Buenos Aires on June 26. "This opinion attempted to define the Province of Tierra del Fuego as a separate country under the meaning of the embargo provision of the Tariff Act of 1930, and therefore stated that importations of lamb and mutton from this newly defined country could be permitted within the discretion of Secretary of Agriculture Wickard."

"The decision when released to the American public by the Argentine friends of our diplomatic officials in the State Department raised such a storm of protest," Mollin declared, "that the attorney general is now reconsidering it, and after conference with Treasury Department officials Secretary Wickard announced that the bars were still up and would remain so until he gave official declaration that the embargo against Tierra del Fuego was lifted."

Mollin said that it was his opinion that the ban will not be lifted. Furthermore, he said, the group referred to in the Buenos Aires dispatch did not return to the United States until June 16—a month after the opinion was rendered.

Mollin called attention to statements made by members of the group since

their return, to the effect that they were convinced the foot-and-mouth disease in cattle in South America constitutes a real threat to the health of livestock in the United States.

Foot-and-mouth disease was found wherever cattle were found in Argentina, according to President Brock, a member of the group that visited South America, and he and the other members of the committee were unanimous in the opinion that the sanitary embargo, long maintained against Argentina and all other countries—some fifty odd in all— which harbor foot-and-mouth disease, should be kept in force, and they so advised Washington officials upon their return to this country.

The committee found, according to President Brock, that not only was foot-and-mouth disease prevalent but that cattle and sheep scab were common and that little effort was made to control any of these diseases and no effort to stamp them out.

Another member of the committee, Howard Hill, of Iowa, said that the party saw evidence of foot-and-mouth disease on every one of the cattle ranches visited in Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil. He said he saw no evidence of any effort to control the disease. "One operator of an estancia in Uruguay told us that we should take every precaution against the disease if our cattle are now free of it," he said. Harry Terrell, also a member of the five-man committee, agreed with Hill's remarks.

Dr. T. W. Schultz, another member of the committee, said that "the Argentine leaders must be confronted with the facts of foot-and-mouth as a disease. They need to be told to quit talking discrimination and get to work and clean up their disease-ridden, infected herds. They have done and are doing nothing."

CONCERNING THE RULING ON TIERRA DEL FUEGO

WHEN A SHORT ITEM APPEARED in the press about a month ago to the effect that the United States had made a treaty with the South American province of Tierra del Fuego, stockmen could not believe it. Then a ruling came to light saying that the sanitary ban applied to geographical rather than political areas and that Tierra del Fuego was a distinct region. Stockmen are still puzzled. The embargo provisions were clearly written to prevent imports from any part of a diseased country. F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, writes about the matter in a letter to the Department of Justice as follows:

"The livestock industry of this country was both amazed and shocked to learn recently of your opinion, rendered on May 16, to the effect that imports of meat products could be accepted from the province of Tierra del Fuego despite the all-inclusive language of the embargo provision of the Tariff Act of 1930.

(Continued on page 29)

Charles O. Robinson

Many western stockmen will learn with deep regret of the death of Charles O. Robinson. Robinson was known to a great many western stockmen. First as a member of the firm, Clay, Robinson and Company, and later as head of the Charles O. Robinson Company, he handled countless thousands of range cattle for western growers.

Howard Hackedorn

Howard Hackedorn, head of the department of animal husbandry at Washington State College died recently at Colfax, Washington. Mr. Hackedorn succumbed to an attack of heart trouble. He was a leading authority on livestock matters in the Northwest and was author of numerous books and bulletins. He often acted as judge at various livestock shows. He was acting secretary of the Washington Cattlemen's Association and secretary of the Inland Empire Shorthorn Breeders' Association. His widow, a son, and a daughter survive him.

CALENDAR

AUGUST—

- 1-3—Wyoming Wool Growers' Ass'n Convention, Worland.
- 15-16-17—Annual Northwest Nebraska Hereford Tour.
- 26-27—National Ram Sale, Salt Lake City, Utah.

SEPTEMBER—

- 11-14—Nevada Livestock Show and Fair, Elko.
- 14—Nevada Bull Sale, Elko, Nevada.
- 15-16—Haley Smith Cattle Company Dispersion Sale, Sterling, Colo.

OCTOBER—

- 2—Benton Marshall and Sons Sale, Chadron, Neb.
- 4-11—Pacific International Livestock Exposition, Portland, Ore.
- 6—Gallatin Gateway Hereford Ranch Sale, Gallatin Gateway, Mont.
- 10—Northwest Hereford Breeders' Ass'n Sale, Portland, Ore.
- 20—Wagner Hereford Ranch Sale, Kirk, Colo.
- 25—Willow Creek Ranch Sale, Belt, Mont.
- 25—By the Way Ranch Sale, Wood Lake, Neb.
- 26-27—Hereford Sale and Show, Dillon, Mont.
- 27-28—Mousel Bros. Sale, Cambridge, Neb.
- 28—Wyoming Hereford Ranch Sale, Cheyenne.

NOVEMBER—

- 8—Chadron Range Bull Sale, Chadron, Neb.
- 10—Platte Valley Hereford Ass'n Sale, North Platte, Neb.

JANUARY—

- 7-9—American National Live Stock Ass'n Convention, Salt Lake City.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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Vol. XXIII August 1941 No. 3

TIERRA DEL FUEGO

FOR SEVERAL MONTHS PAST THE ingenious diplomats of the Argentine Republic have been racking their brains for some new subterfuge by which to evade, partially at least, the plain intent and purpose of the embargo provision of the Hawley-Smoot Tariff Act. From past experience they know that they have only to suggest it to the international ring in the State Department to have them accept it as their own.

The most astounding idea they have yet hit upon was that Tierra del Fuego, the island province of Argentina which lies just across the Strait of Magellan from the mainland, was a separate country and that therefore it was entitled to separate treatment under the embargo provisions of the tariff act. Accordingly the idea was passed along to the State Department, which, of course, true to form, accepted it, and immediately the wheels of the governmental machinery were put into motion to grind out an opinion from the attorney general in line with the suggestion of the South American diplomats. This opinion, written on May 16, did not come to light in this country until June 27, on receipt of a dispatch from Buenos Aires.

To say that the livestock industry and the country in general were amazed is to belittle the word. While we have known that the State Department has worked hand in glove with Argentine representatives in an effort to find some way to break down our tariff barriers and our sanitary embargo, up to the present time they have confined themselves within the limits of existing law and this is the first time the law has been openly flouted and a device employed which to say the least is a shady one.

When the storm first broke in Wash-

ington, Acting Secretary Welles hastened to announce that this method had been taken to heal Argentina's wounded pride and that actually there would be no importations of lamb from that province. A few days later, however, Argentine advices indicated that some 9,000,000 pounds of lamb and mutton were awaiting shipment to the United States, and in two or three weeks came information from other Argentines expressing their glee at the raising of the ban against importations of beef. It has never been claimed that there are any export cattle in Tierra del Fuego, and hence the dispatch just referred to probably gives the key to what is really in their minds.

When President Brock of the American National Live Stock Association returned from Argentina there were frequent discussions on the boat with an attache of the Argentine government. During one of these discussions a young Argentine headed for the United States to attend college observed that what they most wanted was to have some spot in Argentina declared clean. As he naively put it, "We want some place that we can ship our cattle so that they can be exported to the United States."

A group of influential western senators immediately rallied to the defense of the livestock industry. They have protested vigorously to Secretary Wickard, to Acting Secretary Welles, to the attorney general's office, and to Dr. John R. Mohler, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry. Their protests have been actively supported by representations made in Washington by Secretary Mollin and by communications which are going to Washington daily from livestock associations, sanitary associations, and many individual stockmen.

As a consequence, the attorney general's office has announced that on the basis of new information received the matter is being reconsidered, while Secretary Wickard announces he is restudying the matter. In addition, it is now clearly understood that the bars are still up and that no importations will be accepted from Tierra del Fuego until Secretary Wickard officially notifies the secretary of the treasury that this particular province is not infected with foot-and-mouth disease and that it is safe to accept shipments therefrom. In view of the fact that we are advised that beef is being shipped to Tierra del Fuego for consumption from infected portions of Argentina and that bucks for breeding purposes are likewise shipped to southern Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego from infected herds, it seems unlikely that Secretary Wickard will run the risk of declaring Tierra del Fuego a clean territory.

It would seem that this foolishness has gone about far enough. For weeks propaganda was kept up to show that Argentina was in a desperate condition due to restricted shipping outlet caused by the war. The Brock committee has definitely proved this propaganda to be

false. The coolers in Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina were all practically empty, according to the committee's report, and packers had to ride far into the hills to secure beef for urgent European and African contracts. It is therefore clearly apparent that Argentina has deliberately tried to make capital of the war emergency as a means of breaking down our sanitary embargo and that the State Department international ring has worked closely with them in the attempt.

Argentina's purpose is clear. The United States market is well above the English market, and the Argentines would naturally prefer to sell where they can get the most money. The industry in Argentina, however, is and has been prosperous in recent years, much more so than here in the United States for the same period of time. There is no least excuse for the tactics that are being employed to break down the sanitary embargo. On the contrary, it seems inconceivable that responsible officials with the welfare of this country in mind (even if they have no consideration for the livestock industry) would deliberately run the risk of contaminating our herds and flocks with foot-and-mouth disease at such a critical time. Whatever obligation we owe to Argentina in connection with the emergency hemisphere defense plans is an obligation of the entire United States. It cannot and should not be met alone by the livestock industry.

We have not previously referred to the fact that the effort is a deliberate violation of the clear understanding given to the legislative committee of the American National Live Stock Association last February when the famous canned beef deal was made. We deplore this breach of trust. What has Argentina done for the United States that the State Department can afford to break faith with the livestock producers of this country and to run the risks involved as shown above?

FOR DEFENSE



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THE PACKER INDICTMENTS

ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE WILL be found reference to indictments obtained in Chicago in recent weeks against various packers and the Joint Marketing Improvement Committee, composed of packers and commission men. These are the result of a grand jury investigation which has been under way for many weeks and, according to the meager information so far given the public, are based upon certain buying practices both in relation to central market activity and to direct buying. It is understood that the investigations are still being pursued.

Until the facts are known, the livestock industry will take no sides in the matter. Everyone who has the best interest of the livestock industry at heart will welcome any necessary correction in buying practices, whether it be in the central markets or in the country. If these practices tend to give the packer undue preference and thereby to limit competition, they should be corrected—and the sooner the better. If, however, the indictments are based largely on imagination and reflect a desire of the "trust-busting" department of the federal government to keep all big business on the pan, rather than a sincere desire to effect improvement, then the sooner the true facts are known the better it will be for all elements of industry.

One unfortunate development—and an indefensible one—has been noted; namely, a move on the part of the sponsors of the Gillette bill, S. 1199, to hitch this bill onto the packer indictments and thereby steer it through Congress. It should be remembered that the sponsors of the Gillette bill are almost if not entirely all representatives of certain central markets and that their purpose is not an un-

selfish one. Not all livestock producers are in accord as to the merits of direct marketing. Some who believe that there is something wrong in the system, nevertheless are strongly opposed to any move such as passage of the Gillette bill to force them to market only in the central markets. The advocates of the bill in seeking to make capital of the packer indictments calmly ignore the fact that the first indictments returned were in relation to sheep buying practices on the central markets.

Despite the effort referred to above, the Gillette bill, if pressed, will have to stand on its own feet when it gets to congressional committees. Whatever may be wrong in the practice of direct buying, particularly as the system has grown up in the Corn Belt, it would be like jumping from the frying pan into the fire to outlaw the practice and force all such shipments into the central markets, because this would tend to reduce rather than to increase competition therein.

It should not be forgotten that the Packers' Consent Decree of 1920 and the Packers and Stock Yards Act of 1921 were brought about as the result of market conditions that prevailed prior to that time when direct buying was a factor of very minor importance. In the fight that led up to the action of 1920 and 1921, referred to above, the central markets were commonly referred to as the bottleneck in the livestock industry, and it was then believed that the greatest drawback in our marketing system was the fact that the millions of livestock produced in great degree west of the Missouri River had to be forced through the confines of a limited number of central markets before it was possible to reach the consuming centers of the great eastern part of the country. It has been stated many times in various

livestock hearings that two-thirds of the livestock of this country were produced west of the Mississippi River and two-thirds of the product consumed east of the Mississippi River.

The PRODUCER has always believed that the livestock industry in this country has reached a stage of development in which the dual marketing system is best and under it greatest competition afforded to livestock producers and feeders. It believes that to force all shipments back through the central markets would be a step backward, while it believes that the elimination of the central markets would be just as definitely a step backward. Whatever is wrong in either system of marketing should be corrected as promptly as possible, and then the various markets and the various types of marketing each would flourish according to its success in convincing shippers of the desirability of that particular market and that particular type of marketing.

OLEOMARGARINE

AN EDITORIAL IN THE DAIRY Record complains that "certain privileges accorded oleomargarine manufacturers in the new standards promulgated by the Federal Security Administration will go a long way toward wrecking the butter industry." Among them, it says, is the "right to use the artificial flavoring, diacetyl . . . permitted for the avowed purpose of 'enhancing the butterlike flavor' of this cheap substitute." Then the editorial says that "the dairy industry will have to strike boldly and hard. . . . It must resort to measures of which most of us have disapproved. We must now all recognize that we are dealing with an implacable enemy who is never satisfied and who will seek to encroach as long as he exists. In short, the dairy industry must set as its goal the complete extermination of oleomargarine. It must never rest until the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine has been outlawed in this country."

Ever since back in the seventies, the butter industry has been fighting the oleomargarine industry. It was early successful in imposing a sharp federal tax on the product and stiff annual license fees on manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers. It succeeded in writing into law elaborate regulations as to inspection, labeling, packing, and misbranding. States, likewise, taxed margarine in varying amounts. Originally sponsored by the dairy-farm interests, these regulations, through agitation by the factory-butter interests, soon got far beyond their original purpose to prevent fraud in the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine as butter. The aim of the butter interests seemed to be that of entire monopoly in the table-fat field. The Dairy Record editor, noting that this aim has not been

Feeders For Sale?

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achieved through approved means, would "resort to measures of which most of us have disapproved." All of these "safeguards," it should be remembered, were erected for one domestic producer against another domestic producer.

Margarine manufacturers, like all other manufacturers, have quite naturally tried to improve the product they sell—and they have had to do this to a degree even above that in butter, ironically due to the tight regulations forced upon them by the butter interests. Within the scope of the abundant regulations that surround its manufacture and sale, the manufacturers have tried to attract the housewife to their product by enhancing its taste. This does not mean that margarine thereby is elevated to the status of butter. Margarine as a table-fat is in a field by itself. It has a market—probably largely among those who of necessity must economize—of its own. Only the most innocent and deluded could suppose in buying margarine under the manifold restrictions surrounding its sale that she was buying butter.

Manufacturers also surely have the right—again, of course, within the elaborate regulations mentioned—to increase their volume of sales as far as they can. That does not necessarily mean that the increase will "encroach" on butter sales. It may, to some extent, but the dairy industry should not fall into the error of supposing that every pound of margarine forced off the market by restrictive enactments is replaced by a pound of butter. Consumers who must practice every economy and can buy three pounds of margarine for 41 cents cannot afford the luxury of one pound of butter at 44 cents. There is obviously a market for both products.

Each industry and business in this country does not have its entire buyers' market to itself. Usually they overlap and go along side by side. Certainly it would help the beef business to outlaw pork sales, and to that extent the beef business and the pork business are competitive. But the consumer does not want only beef. He likes pork, too. In the instance of these products, one complements the other. So it is with butter and oleomargarine.

Probably no other domestic producer has made the broad demands that the butter interests have. The "complete extermination of oleomargarine" is ridiculous.

CORRECTION

Last month's editorial on "Fixing Hide Prices" said that "a 2-cent advance in hide prices today would mean about 10 cents a pound on weighty fat steers." This should have been "10 cents a hundred pounds on weighty fat steers." In the "One-Sided Reciprocal Trade" editorial, we said that "an emergency tariff act had to be passed (in 1931) followed by the Fordney-McCumber Act." The year should have been 1921.

WASHINGTON

IMPORT DUTIES ON A GREAT many agricultural articles scheduled for possible lowering in the proposed agreements with Argentina and Uruguay were upheld by witnesses at the hearings which opened on June 22 before the Committee on Reciprocity Information in Washington. Among witnesses who testified in behalf of the existing duties on canned meat, hides, and other livestock products were congressmen and senators from most of the western states, including: Senator Johnson, Colorado; Senator Arthur Capper, Kansas; Representative H. B. Coffee, Nebraska; Representative Frank Carlson, Kansas; Senator Abe Murdock, Utah; Representative Case, South Dakota; Representative Ross Rizley, Oklahoma; and Representative Andresen, Minnesota. One hundred and twenty members of the House submitted a statement to the committee opposing tariff reductions. Secretary F. E. Mollin, of the American National Live Stock Association, appeared for the western cattlemen. F. R. Marshall, secretary of the National Wool Growers' Association; C. J. Fawcett, of the National Wool Marketing Association, and J. B. Wilson, secretary of the Wyoming Wool Growers' Association, appeared for the wool growers.

PRICE CONTROL

An overall price control bill to place the Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply on a firmer footing than the one it now rests on under executive order only is reported to be in the mak-

ing. The OPACS ran into difficulties a month ago with the automobile manufacturers when one of the big companies declined to rescind price increases on new cars. This evidently spurred the drive toward a law. Price Control Administrator Leon Henderson said in early July that control legislation might be needed to avert abnormal rises in the cost of living. He said that strict control over wages, transportation costs, interest rates, and costs of raw materials would be necessary to avert price spirals. It has been reported that the program contemplated will authorize price fixing on every-day necessities and essential materials but not on crops or wages. So far the agency has set price ceilings on about a dozen commodities, including a 15-cent one on hides.

TAX BILL

Culminating three months of work, the House Ways and Means Committee on July 24 approved a \$3,529,200,000 tax bill to help finance the defense program. Under it surtaxes on individual net incomes would start at 5 per cent on the first dollar of taxable income and range up to the present 75 per cent on \$5,000,000 incomes. A provision requiring husbands and wives with separate incomes to make joint returns is supposed to net \$300,000,000. Tax rates on corporations now ranging from 25 to 50 per cent were hiked to 35 to 60 per cent, and method of computing was changed. Surtaxes of 5 per cent on the first \$25,000 of taxable income and 6 per cent over that figure would be imposed. A

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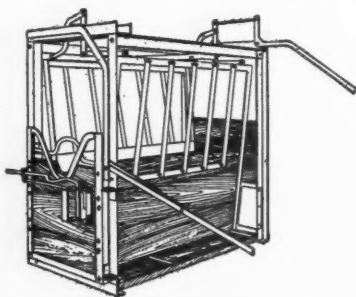
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long list of goods and services would be subject to excise taxes, including liquor, \$1 a gallon; automobiles, \$5 annual use tax. It is the biggest tax bill in the nation's history. Heavier taxes next year and a new tax bill every year during the emergency are reported to have been forecast by President Roosevelt.

DUTY-FREE IMPORTATION BILLS

Bills have recently made their appearance in Congress to permit the duty-free importation of materials deemed necessary in the development of the national defense program. The livestock industry fears that this legislative move might be an attempt on the part of the administration to import, free of duty, Argentine beef for the use of the Army and Navy. Fears are felt that it might make a way to get around the provisions of the Johnson domestic purchase law, since a wide disparity in price would favor the cheap foreign articles as against the domestic articles. One section of the bills in question would authorize the Secretary of the Treasury "to waive or suspend with respect to importations . . . any restriction or requirement imposed by law or regulation with respect to like articles not subject to the provisions of this act." This provision could be interpreted in such a manner as to set aside the sanitary provisions of the Tariff Act which exclude from the markets of the United States chilled and frozen beef from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists.

RESERVE FEED FOR NORTHEAST

The Department of Agriculture has announced a plan to store reserve supplies of milled feed on farms in northeastern states "in order to avoid possible shortages that would hamper efforts to increase dairy, poultry, and livestock production needed for the national defense program." The plan is designed to assure adequate supplies of feed in the area in the event shortage in transportation limits shipments of grain from the producing areas in the Midwest or limits shipments of milled feeds within the area. Producers and dealers in this area at present often maintain less than one week's supply of feed, whereas under the program participating farmers would maintain approximately three months' supply. The plan, by distributing grain to farms for storage in the form of feed, would also make available in grain-producing areas additional storage space needed for the 1941 grain crop.

ST. LAWRENCE RIVER PROJECT

Hearings at Washington on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence seaway project, which would develop power and navigation on the St. Lawrence River, brought forth by supporters the arguments that the additional power facilities derived

therefrom would be important in national defense production; that the proposed seaway, by providing outlet to the ocean, would permit long-range naval construction in lake ports, thus lessening pressure on Atlantic coast yards. Opponents took the stand that the project is not vital to defense; that it would take too long to complete; that it would divert from arms production men, material, and money; that it would deprive eastern railroads and seaports of business. Proponents say that every American president in more than thirty years has favored the project.

EXTEND WHEAT SUBSIDY

The policy of subsidizing wheat and wheat flour exports has been extended for another year, according to press reports. This, it is hoped, will mean disposal of the potential total supply of 1,318,000,000 bushels of wheat available for marketing during the 1941-42 season. The Department of Agriculture estimated a carryover of old wheat at 395,000,000 bushels, including the remainder of 1939 grain on which loans were defaulted, 202,000,000 bushels of the 1940 crop on which loans were defaulted as of July 1, and a crop insurance reserve of 12,000,000 bushels. Wheat production for 1941-42 was estimated at 923,000,000 bushels, as of July 1. The total is about 220,000,000 bushels more than the overall United States supply for 1940-41.

GRAZING SERVICE TO SALT LAKE

Salt Lake City, Utah, has been announced by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes as the new western headquarters for the Grazing Service as the first step toward relieving the congested situation in the national capital gets under way. This information follows a recent announcement of the unprecedented decision to move this service, whose functions are peculiarly western—all lands under its administration are west of the 100th meridian—to some western headquarters, thereby making available additional office space for vital emergency activities in Washington . . . Some Agricultural Department agencies may also move west. Chicago and other central cities are possible locations.

INTERIOR UNDERSECRETARY

John J. Dempsey, of New Mexico, on July 8, took over the duties of undersecretary of the interior, a post left vacant by the resignation of Alvin J. Wirtz, of Texas. Born in Whitehaven, Pennsylvania, on June 22, 1879, Dempsey served as member at large from New Mexico in the House of Representatives from 1935 to 1941. Upon the expiration of that service, he was named a member of the United States Maritime Commission by President Roosevelt.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

ASKS SECRETARY HULL TO ABANDON TRADE TREATIES

SECRETARY OF STATE HULL WAS asked on July 21 "immediately to suspend negotiations" in the pending agreements of the United States with Argentina and Uruguay in a telegram sent by F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association.

Since automobile and refrigerator output in the United States has been slashed in half, Mollin said in his wire, expansion of exports in them is out of the question, and if duties on canned beef, hides, wool, and numerous other by-products of the livestock industry and other agricultural products in the pending trade agreements are reduced now "you are merely penalizing agricultural producers of this country and there is not even a pretense that they will be benefited by any expansion of our own foreign trade."

Mollin said that "in fairness to American agricultural producers and in order to insure them a reasonable degree of protection against imports when the inevitable break in prices comes at the end of the war, we urge that you immediately announce suspension of negotiations with these countries."

"Two years ago similar negotiations were abandoned for political reasons. Is it not more important now to abandon them in the interest of the American producer whose welfare should be above any political consideration?"

The wire suggested to the Secretary of State that "any obligation you feel to South American countries in this emergency is an obligation of the entire American people and should be handled through the medium of loans and other general concessions at the expense of the whole people and not at the expense alone of agricultural groups."

TRAFFIC

STOCKER AND FEEDER RAIL RATES AND RULES

By CHAS. E. and CALVIN L. BLAINE
Traffic Counsel

RECENT DECISIONS OF THE INTERSTATE Commerce Commission are a signal victory for the livestock producers. Therein, on interstate traffic the commission required the 85 per cent rates previously prescribed by it on stocker and feeder livestock extended (a) to all points including public stockyards and public livestock markets in the western district, also (b) as the western rate factors on such livestock moving between points in said district and all points east thereof in what is commonly termed the eastern and southern districts. Thus, the 85 per cent rates are universally applicable on all movements of stocker and feeder livestock in the western district.

In addition, the commission required the establishment and maintenance of the general diversion and reconsignment rules in connection with the 85 per cent rates at all points.

Concurrent with the publication of such diversion rules, the rail lines are establishing sale-in-transit of stocker and feeder livestock at the 85 per cent rates at all points where the shippers or consignees will keep a complete and accurate record in a manner acceptable to and as required by the rail lines.

In conferences between the rail lines and shippers in June at Chicago, the carriers decided to establish the diversion and sale-in-transit rules. However, the majority of the lines also voted to renew their former and numerous attempts before the commission to have it fix a single scale of rates on both

stocker-feeder livestock and livestock ready for slaughter. The Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company, Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, Chicago Great Western Railroad Company, and Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company refused to join in such action. The other carriers signified their intention to renew their efforts in this respect. Thereupon the producers and livestock organizations of Texas, through their representative, Chas. A. Stewart, the National Live Stock Marketing Association, through its representative, Lee J. Quasey, and the American National Live Stock Association and the National Wool Growers' Association, through their traffic counsel, addressed the western lines requesting that they desist from their intention to file further petition with the commission to secure single scale of rates on these two separate and distinct commodities. Some of the western state commissions, packers, and others also addressed the carriers in like vein. Later the other western carriers decided not to file petition to secure a single scale of rates on stocker-feeder and fat livestock at the present time, but that the subject may have their further consideration based on a year's actual experience under the diversion and sale-in-transit rules.

Generally, the 85 per cent rates were extended to public stockyards and public livestock markets in the western district November 15, 1940, and extended to all points in the eastern and southern districts on April 1, 1941.

The diversion and sale-in-transit rules are published to become effective August 1, 1941.

The recent decisions of the commission and the voluntary establishment of

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sale-in-transit at the 85 per cent rates, also the carriers' action in not filing further petition for single scale of rates, are fully in accord with the position which the livestock producers have taken for many years.

The action of the rail lines in establishing sale-in-transit, also in deciding not to file petition for single scale of rates at this time, at least, is commendable and of much importance to and appreciated by the livestock producers. The national livestock organizations in their letter of July 7 so advised the principal lines, and further stated:

"That the establishment and maintenance of diversion and sale-in-transit rules on stocker and feeder livestock at the 85 per cent rates published to become effective August 1, 1941, will result in some increase in the traffic and the revenues of the rail lines. . . .

"In this respect it is our information that the preponderance of the livestock moving by truck is fat livestock for relatively short hauls. Moreover, that such movement is due principally to two factors; i. e., the more expeditious truck service and the high level of the rail charges. We note that the carriers in some instances have reduced the local rates on fat livestock to the public markets for distances of 500 miles and under in order to meet motor truck competition. However, we are not informed as to whether such reductions have resulted in any substantial return of the traffic to the rail lines. Based upon the recent report of the Department of Agriculture, which shows an increased movement of livestock by truck during the year 1940, it appears that the reduced rates have not restored a material portion of the traffic to the rail lines. Thus the increased movement by truck is apparently due to the more efficient truck service. We do not know whether the rail lines can improve their service to meet such truck operation. If so, we suggest that such action be taken immediately.

"Moreover, we believe that a substantial volume of livestock traffic will be restored, and the railroad revenue thus increased, if the rail lines will (1) cancel the 5 per cent increase which became effective generally March 28, 1938, in all instances where it is now applicable; (2) reduce the present long-time feeding or grazing-in-transit charges, which are generally 9½ cents to about 2½ cents per 100 pounds; (3) establish diversion and reconsignment and sale-in-transit on fat livestock at all public markets without restriction as to origin territory; (4) arrange to have feed furnished at actual cost plus a small margin of profit on shipments stopped for feed, water, and rest under the 28-36 hour law. Our experience is that the prices of such feed being charged the livestock shippers at the present time exceed the prices being received by the feed producers by varying amounts ranging as high as 400 per cent. We know that some livestock producers and shippers have diverted their traffic to the trucks due to this fact.

"If the rail lines have any suggestions as to how the livestock producers can further co-operate with them, please advise us and such information will be disseminated to our members."

The livestock rates, rules, and regulations have been almost continually in litigation before the commission since early in 1927. During this fourteen-year period the livestock producers have been repeatedly required to defend their rights and interest in long-drawn-out and expensive litigation. The voluntary action of the rail lines in establishing sale-in-transit at all points on stocker and feeder livestock at the 85 per cent rates is, we think, an indication that they are now willing to co-operate with the livestock producers for the mutual advantage of all concerned. Therefore the livestock producers should, first, strictly adhere to the tariff provisions and, second, lend a sympathetic ear to the problems of and co-operate with the rail lines whenever it is possible to do so.

In several past proceedings before the commission the carriers have charged the livestock producers with misdescribing fat livestock as stocker and feeder livestock in order to secure the 85 per cent rates. However, it is gratifying that the evidence taken throughout the several exhaustive investigations failed to show that any bona fide producers had knowingly and intentionally thus misdescribed their shipments. We are reasonably certain that the livestock producers will in the future, as they have in the past, correctly describe their shipments and thus avoid any cause for further litigation.

HENDERSON QUIETS FEAR OF BEEF CEILING

FEAR OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

and feeders that the fixing of a 15-cent ceiling on hide prices might mean similar action on livestock and meat products prompted F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, to request a meeting on June 25 in the office of Price Administrator Leon Henderson to discuss price-fixing policies.

Questions for discussion, Mollin said, were, first, the ceiling placed on hide prices a few weeks ago by the price administrator, and, second, "and much more important, the question of what effect this price-fixing move might have in connection with the orderly movement of livestock from the ranges to the feed-lots in the summer and fall of this year."

Congressman Coffee, of Nebraska; Ben Brumley, president of the National Live Stock Marketing Association; Will J. Miller, secretary of the Kansas Live Stock Association; F. R. Marshall, secretary of the National Wool Growers' Association; J. B. Wilson, secretary of the Wyoming Wool Growers' Association; and C. J. Abbott, prominent livestock producer and feeder of Nebraska and Iowa, were also among those present at the meeting.

Special attention was called to the fact that feeders are even now planning next winter's operations and that the

move to fix prices on an important by-product of the livestock industry "had caused concern in feeding circles out of all proportion to the relative importance of the product in question. It was urged that some statement as to the policy of Mr. Henderson's office relative to price-fixing on livestock or meat products should be issued. Otherwise, many producers and feeders might jump to the conclusion that the establishment of a ceiling on hides was a forerunner to similar action on livestock or meat products."

As a result of this conference, the following letter was written by Leon Henderson to Congressman Coffee.

"Following our recent meeting with the representatives of the livestock producers, I want to assure you again that the step which we have taken in this office to check the speculative increase in hide prices should not be taken as indicating that we are contemplating action on livestock prices or the price of meat.

"While under present circumstances you will understand that no one can make any long-range promises, I do want you to know that no such step has at any time been under consideration in this office, nor do I see any present likelihood of such action. I would be very disturbed if anticipation of such a step should handicap the stocking of feeders during the coming year, and I would like livestock producers to know that I keenly appreciate the importance of maintaining a fair margin between the cost of feeder cattle and the price of finished stock. I know that a good many farmers are feeding cattle this year on a very narrow margin over the high prices paid for feeder stock and that actual losses have been considerable in spite of a relatively strong beef market. Protection of feeder margins as well as fair returns must always be a factor in any consideration of cattle or meat prices.

"Our action on hide prices, including kid and calfskins, was to meet a special situation more or less peculiar to this commodity. A speculative movement in these prices developed during the spring which led to forward buying of shoes and other leather products, heavy forward buying of leather from tanneries, and heavy buying of hides by the tanneries themselves. This promised to reflect in unreasonable prices for leather products and eventually a liquidation which would react on prices throughout the industry. In late May, the Army found it necessary to reject bids on a million pairs of Army shoes and approximately one-quarter million pairs of Civilian Conservation Corps shoes and this office took steps to check the spiral. We had no thought whatsoever of seeking to control livestock prices.

"I would appreciate any steps that you may be able to take to place this interpretation of our action before the livestock producers."

Price Administrator Henderson's letter, Mollin declared, "is indeed reassuring. Certainly there is nothing in the livestock or meat picture at the present time that could possibly warrant any thought of price-fixing."

MARKETS

CATTLE PRICE RANGE CONTINUES TO EXPAND

By H. W. FRENCH

SPREAD IN CATTLE PRICES WID-
ened considerably recently, but the price range will widen much more from now on, as the run is carrying more warmed-up and grassy offerings, with indications that the "grass" supply will sell to less advantage than long-fed arrivals. Many are bullish on the fed-cattle market for immediate future. Colorado and Wyoming have been marketing dry-lot steers freely for many weeks and the supply is running out. Many sellers have been receiving advice from their customers that the feed-lots are getting bare, and where a good supply was available a month ago some men are down to their last load or two. This situation may not be so pronounced in the Corn Belt, but information points to a lighter supply of long-fed bullocks in the near future. Salesmen at the public stockyards have been chiding the buyers that just give them a few more weeks and they will have their innings when it comes to dictating the trend on prices for fed steers and possibly heifers.



Buyers continue to want the light steers and in the main are giving preference to those from 1,050 pounds down although still taking those up to 1,200 pounds with fair freedom. On most sessions they showed no disposition to take on those from 1,400 to 1,600 pounds. There were times when the big cattle were far in excess of trade requirements and a resultant price break would shut off the supply. Some price recovery would result with the let-down, but there was not the uniform outlet such as shown for the lightweights, and only a moderate run of big steers will be needed unless the picture changes. The dressed steer beef carcasses from 850 pounds up have been piling up on the rails, and this in itself will deter buyers of heavy steers on the hoof.

It is true that to date the run of grass cattle on the markets has not been excessive and has been even below normal for this season of the year, but the advance guard is appearing around the circuit, and so far there is no uniformity to the market. To date the quality of grass steers has not been high, but the run has included several loads of strictly good cows, while hardly any grass heifers suitable for killers have arrived. The consensus is that the grass cattle will

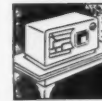
not influence the trend for long-fed offerings for some time to come, and unless feeders refuse their normal support to the grass steer market the slaughter concerns may not get many bargains the fore part of the season.

Income from livestock and livestock products the first five months of 1941 was given as \$2,250,000,000, or \$424,000,000 more than the corresponding period a year earlier—an increase of 23 per cent. The biggest part of this gain was in April and May. The largest increase was from cattle, hogs, wool, and butter fat. The June slaughter of meat animals under federal inspection decreased from May 4 per cent for cattle, 12 per cent for calves, 17 per cent for hogs, and 11 per cent for sheep and lambs. As compared with June, 1940, cattle slaughter increased 18 per cent, calves 1 per cent, with sheep and lambs practically unchanged and a decrease of 14 per cent for hogs.

GENERALLY speaking fed steers at Chicago from 1,100 pounds down at mid-July were steady to 25 cents lower than a month earlier, but other weights were largely 25 to 50 cents off, although there was recovery enough to discount about half of this decline under late improved demand and some let-up in supplies. The fluctuations during the month were rather severe on heavy steers but of little consequence on light steers and yearlings. Good-to-choice heifers were around 25 to 50 cents higher for the period, although common grassy kinds were practically unchanged. Cows did not fare so well as a few months ago, although good kinds suffered no loss for the current month. Other grades, however, were mostly 25 to 50 cents lower, with some medium kinds down more. Cannery and cutters were largely 50 cents down and some cannery showed more than 75 cents setback. Bulls continued good property and medium-to-good kinds were largely 25 to 50 cents higher for the month. Some good heavy sausage offerings showed greater upturn. Vealer prices rose 50 cents to \$1, while heavy calves were practically unchanged.

Late in June some choice-to-prime light and medium weight fed steers at Chicago cleared at \$12.35 to \$12.50, and in the last week of that month prime 1,135-pound weights reached \$12.75; but after passing into July the top up to mid-month was \$12.25, paid for several loads, with the heaviest load at the price from Wyoming and averaging 1,324 pounds. The heaviest Wyomings of the season—1,489 pounds—were strictly good and sold at \$10.60. Some 1,670-pound offerings from another state went at \$10.25. There were 1,400-pound Montanas at \$10.90 and more highly finished 1,500-pound western Nebraskas at \$11.35. Many loads from Colorado were reported at \$11 to \$12. Bulk of the heavy steers sold

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at \$10.25 to \$11.40 and hog-fat big weights cleared at \$10.50 to \$10.75, as contrasted with half-fat light yearlings at identical figures. Medium-grade offerings were taken largely from \$10 down, and little of any description was to be had below \$9.

Omaha reported some choice 1,325-pound steers up to \$11.75, but some of those at \$11.35 were lighter and had been on feed ten months. Many choice loads of various weights sold at \$10.60 to \$11.15, while medium-to-good grades bulked at \$9.50 to \$10.50. Good 1,502-pound natives at St. Paul scored \$9.75 and good Canadians with less weight went at \$10 and up. Fort Worth reported fed steers up to \$11.50 and straight grassers from \$9.25 down, common kinds selling at \$7 to \$8.50. Not many steers made \$11 and better at Sioux City. Some medium weight fed steers at Kansas City sold as high as \$12 and choice Nebraskas around 1,110 pounds scored \$11.50 to \$11.60. Many heavyweights landed at \$10.25 to \$11.25 and some over 1,400 pounds reached \$11.35. Choice 1,300- to 1,400-pound Colorados made \$10.85, with 1,313-pound Kansans at \$11.10, and 1,542-pound bullocks from Missouri at \$10.50. Common-to-medium grass-fat steers sold at \$7.75 to \$9.50, including some from Oklahoma at \$8.85. Some 1,013- to 1,080-pound Brahmas went at \$8.40. Cutter-grade grass steers sold as low as \$7.25 in carlots.

Strictly choice grain-fed heifers from 740 to 1,023 pounds topped at \$11.75 at Chicago and a few loads went at \$11.35 to \$11.60, but the bulk of good-to-choice arrivals made \$10 to \$11.25, while common and medium grades were obtained at \$8.50 to \$12.50. Many of the cows were secured at \$7.50 to \$8.25 and some dry-lotters scored \$8.50 to \$9 and better, but common kinds were numerous at lower figures, although at times strong-weight cutters reached \$7.25 and most frequently sold around \$7. Any number of canner cows landed at \$5 to \$6. Most of the medium-to-good sausage bulls cleared at \$8.75 to \$9.25, but on the late high spot good kinds with weight scored \$9.40 to \$9.75 for a new high level. The practical top on vealers was \$12.50, although some reached \$12.75 and many sold at \$11 to \$12. Common-to-choice heavy calves were quoted at \$7.50 to \$10.50.

Both light and heavy heifers at Denver reached \$11.25 and many medium-to-choice kinds landed at \$9.50 to \$11.10, while some cows were reported at \$8.50 to \$8.75, although the bulk landed at \$7.25 to \$8.25. Heavy sausage bulls sold up to \$9.50 sparingly and \$9.25 freely. Vealers topped at \$14, but buyers forced the best down to \$13.50 and then to \$13. Most of the good-to-choice heifers at Omaha were taken at \$9.75 to \$11, with a late top of \$11.35. Strictly good cows scored \$8 to \$8.75 and on a late rise heavy sausage bulls passed \$9. Best heifers and mixed yearlings at Kansas City landed at \$11.25 to \$11.50 and many were to be had at \$9.50 to \$11. Odd lots of

cows reached \$9 and a good load averaging 1,215 pounds made \$8.50. Not many bulls passed \$8.50. Although beef cows at Sioux City sold mostly from \$7.75 down, there were some at \$8.50 and above. Fort Worth reported outstanding 1,154-pound beef cows at \$8.10.

DEMAND for stocker and feeder cattle and calves was not so urgent or so broad the past month, and fleshy steers suddenly went into disfavor as contrasted with a big outlet some time back. Light cattle and especially those without much flesh got the call throughout. The trade was very irregular, yet country buyers at times competed with killers of medium-to-good 800- to 1,000-pound steers. The movement of stocker and feeder cattle and calves from Kansas City July 1, 1940, to June 30, 1941, totaled around 538,500 head, or slightly more than a year earlier. It has been reported that some calves have been contracted for in Wyoming at \$45 per head for fall delivery.

Average cost of stocker and feeder steers at Chicago the last week of June was \$10.87 against \$8.73 a year ago; at Kansas City, \$9.98 and \$7.92 respectively; and at St. Paul, \$9.18 and \$7.50, respectively. The costs at these markets for the first week of July were less than the last week of June and showed a small margin of gain as compared with a year ago. The June, 1941, cost at Chicago was \$10.67 against \$9.02 a year ago; at Kansas City, \$9.90 and \$8.05, respectively; and at St. Paul, \$9.35 and \$7.85, respectively. For the first six months at Chicago the cost was \$10.08 for 1941 and \$8.64 for 1940; at Kansas City, \$10.16 for 1941 and \$8.56 for 1940; while at St. Paul the cost was \$8.82 for 1941 and \$7.49 for 1940.

Stocker and feeder steers and calves at Chicago at mid-July looked mostly steady to 25 cents lower than a month earlier, while heifers on country account showed chiefly 25 cents upturn as against a decline of 25 cents on cows. Most of the medium-to-choice stock steers at Chicago sold at \$9.50 to \$11, but some calf-weight yearlings reached \$12 and heavier yearlings scored \$11.25. There was very little at \$9 and below. Feeder steers already fat enough for slaughter sold on country account at \$10.75 to \$11.35 and averaged 1,000 to 1,200 pounds. There were some choice stock calves from the Southwest at \$12.85 to \$13.

Good-to-choice feeder steers at Kansas City made \$10 to \$10.75 and medium 1,025-pound Kansas grassers went out at \$9. There were some good-to-choice finishing steers at \$10.50 to \$11.25. Medium-to-good stock steers landed at \$8.75 to \$11, with common down to \$7.25. Medium-to-good steer calves went out at \$8.50 to \$11 and choice 277-pound weights scored \$13.50, with 321-pound heifer calves in the consignment at \$12.50. Choice 625-pound heifers made \$10.15 but most other sales were from \$9.50 down. Medium-to-good stock cows sold at \$6.25 to \$7.25.

Country buyers paid mostly \$9 to \$10.75 at Denver for stocker and feeder steers and best landed at \$11. Some choice heifers made \$10 to \$10.25 and Texas scored \$9.90. Calves went out largely at \$12 down, but vealer weight kinds often made \$12.50 to \$13.50, with extreme sales at \$14 to \$15 for weights below 150 pounds. Medium and good steers at Omaha went out at \$8.75 to \$10.50 for stocker purposes, with 471-pound short yearlings from the Sand Hills at \$12 and the heifers in the drove at \$10. Good-to-choice 775- to 1,000-pound feeders landed at \$9.50 to \$10.75, with a top of \$11. Good-to-choice heifers from 540 to 680 pounds sold to feeders at \$9.75 to \$10.35 and lower grades at \$8.50 to \$9.50. Calves cleared largely from \$12 down. Medium-to-good stock steers at Sioux City were taken generally at \$9 to \$10.75. Common-to-choice yearling stock steers at Fort Worth sold at \$7 to \$11, some 450-pound short yearlings scoring \$12 to \$12.50. Best 400- to 450-pound heifers made \$10.50 to \$10.75. Good-to-choice steer calves were secured at \$11 to \$13, best heifer calves landing at \$11.50. Cows went out at \$5.50 to \$7.50. Most medium-to-good steers sold on country account at St. Paul at \$9 to \$10 and good calves around \$11.

THE Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation purchased for the period March 15 to July 12, inclusive, 95,218,500 pounds of cured and frozen pork, 56,200,208 pounds of canned pork, 844,675 bundles of hog casings (each 100 yards long), 11,000 pounds of dried beef, and 155,819,615 pounds of lard. Support has been given to many other agricultural commodities not produced by the livestock grower.

Although the amount of pork of every variety in cold storage was heavier than a year ago on July 1, these holdings were greatly reduced from a month ago, and the biggest reduction was in the item, frozen pork. Despite every effort of the industry it seems impossible to cut down the amount of lard on hand, and on July 1 lard in cold storage made a new record of 367,911,000 pounds, exclusive of 7,743,000 pounds of rendered pork fat.

It appears an easy matter for hog prices to rise consistently, and any minor break which happens is followed by a new upward push, carrying prices to new high levels. The upward swing is so steady that what is written about a new high figure does not apply by the time the written word is printed for publication. Demand continues broad despite the sharp and continual movement, and pork loins are reaching levels at which the consumer a short time ago would have entered a sharp protest, but probably he has more money to spend and wants to spend it.

Live hog prices were sharply higher all around the market circuit, and at Chicago at mid-July values were \$1.55 to \$1.90 higher than a month earlier on good-to-choice butcher hogs from 270

pounds down. As a rule those between 180 and 240 pounds sold to best advantage and at a premium over other weights. Packing sows were generally \$1 to \$1.25 higher for the same period, but at times heavy sows suffered from bearish raids by the buyers, the market having been more uniform on the light sows.

Top butcher hogs at Chicago on July 15 scored \$11.65—the highest price at that point since October, 1937, and compared with the July top of last year of \$7. Any number of good-to-choice 160- to 220-pound offerings sold at \$11.15 to \$11.65 and those of comparable grades from 240 to 300 pounds bulked at \$11.10 to \$11.40. Some bigger weights landed at \$10.75 to \$11. Some packing sows cleared at \$10.50 to \$10.65, but the bulk sold at \$10 to \$10.40 unless the average weight was above 450 pounds. At the high time best butcher hogs passed \$11 at Missouri River markets, reaching \$11.50 at Denver and selling up to \$12.70 at Los Angeles.

SLAUGHTER spring lamb prices at mid-July were not at the high point of the month but fluctuation was not so severe as in the previous month. There was a fairly good demand from week to week. Sheep and yearlings, the latter classified as old-crop lambs until July 1, were in meager supply and fared rather well, although matured sheep found the best outlet throughout the period. The late decline more than offset the early advances, and at mid-month fat spring lambs at Chicago were largely weak to 10 cents lower after having shown some advance until near the end of the period. Yearlings were considered steady to 25 cents lower, while slaughter ewes looked mostly 25 cents higher.

It is claimed by the sheephouse trade that this year's lamb crop will exceed that of a year ago, although official release of this information is not due for some time. The trade bases its claims on information received from many of the big lamb producers. It is known that the range lambs will carry a bigger percentage of "fats" than usual and weight at time of marketing will be heavier. Those contracted for feeder purposes for fall delivery undoubtedly will be sorted and the fat end marketed, thereby reducing the number to be fed out later.

Contracting of lambs in the intermountain areas has increased in recent weeks, and that is as it should be, although some prospective feeders still are unwilling to pay prevailing prices. Growers are resisting any attempt to beat down the price which has been current for some time. It appears as though sales of feeding lambs have been to date generally on a \$9 to \$9.25 basis, with some holding for higher figures. The movement of lambs out of Idaho has not been so early this season, and on the other hand many of the lambs in Washington have gone marketward earlier. Sheep and range conditions are wonderful at this writing, and ranchmen never were in a better

position. Here and there some sales of lambs have been noted at new figures, some contracts quoting prices at \$9.30 to \$9.50. There were some ewe lambs in Utah as high as \$11 and in Wyoming some were reported at \$9.50 to \$10.50. Idaho also indicated ewe lambs as high as \$11.

Spring lambs at Chicago late in June sold above \$12, but for the first half of

July none passed \$12 and Washingtons reached \$11.85. In fact, at mid-month the top had dropped to \$11.50 sparingly. Good-to-choice yearlings sold at \$8.50 to \$9.40, and some Missouri River markets reported yearlings as high as \$9. Good-to-choice slaughter ewes at Chicago made \$3.75 to \$4.75 and at Kansas City a top of \$5 was registered and at many other markets sales were chiefly from \$4.50

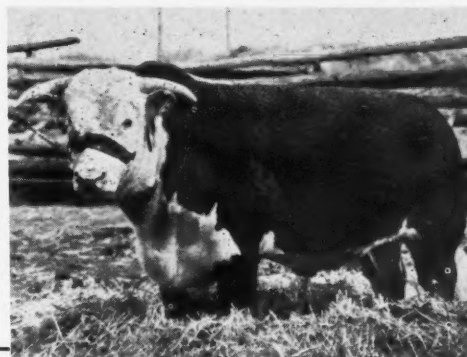
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down. Good-to-choice lambs late had to sell at \$11.10 at Denver, with best at "River" points from \$11 down. Good-to-choice feeding lambs were usually taken at \$9.50 to \$10.35, with Omaha doing most of the business on this class. Breeding ewes from aged broken-mouth to yearling type sold at \$4 to \$9 at Omaha, where 91-pound shorn ewe lambs went for breeding purposes at \$9.25. There were several loads of aged breeding ewes with solid mouths at \$5.50 to \$5.65.

WOOL QUIET; LABELING LAW NOW IN EFFECT

By H. W. F.

THE MAJOR PART OF THE 1941 domestic clip has already been sold by producers, and the movement of some clips to storage plants for auction in the near future has been reported. It is indicated that most mills have already purchased domestic and foreign wool for their needs for the next several months. Mill consumption of wool in the United States has been at a record level in recent months, and imports of apparel wool have been the largest in at least twenty years. The weekly rate of mill consumption of apparel wool in May was 10,300,000 pounds, scoured basis, or the highest on record and more than double the weekly rate of consumption in May, 1940. In the early months of 1941, for the first time in many years, mill consumption of foreign wool exceeded substantially consumption of domestic wool.

Domestic prices of wool have not changed much during the past few months, but it must be remembered that there was a marked advance in the latter half of 1940. The average price received by farmers for wool in mid-June was 36.5 cents per pound, compared with 28.6

cents a year earlier. Farmers in May and June were paid the highest prices since 1928. Although the recent market has been quiet, there was some increase in sales as a result of the invitations for bids by the United States Army for a large quantity of wool piece goods and 1,500,000 blankets. The volume of sales increased moderately on the three-eighths blood grade of territory wools around mid-July as a result of awards of government orders for blankets. The Army's request for bids for goods and blankets in June is equivalent to about 75,000,000 pounds of wool, grease basis.

Imports of apparel wool for consumption the first four months of 1941 totaled 229,000,000 pounds against 78,000,000 pounds in the corresponding period of 1940. A large part of the imports in recent months came from Argentina and Uruguay, but remaining stocks in these countries are small. The new clip in South American countries will not be available until November, and in the next few months a large part of the United States imports of wool will come from Australia. Mill consumption of apparel wool, greasy shorn and greasy pulled, totaled 384,000,000 pounds for the first five months as against 197,000,000 pounds a year ago.

The wool growers should benefit greatly from the Wool Products Labeling Act, which went into effect at mid-July. This act was signed by President Roosevelt nine months ago and since then merchants have been clearing their shelves of unlabeled merchandise or relabeled it to conform with the regulations. The purpose of the law is to protect producers, manufacturers, distributors, and consumers from the unrevealed presence of substitutes and mixtures.

Most houses at Boston transacted very little new business in wool around the middle of July, but some concerns re-

ported a moderate demand. Sales in most domestic wools were restricted to small quantities needed by mills to piece out stocks for present operations. Prices showed little change on domestic or foreign wools, although scattered transactions were closed on wools recently placed under option pending the award of new government contracts.

Demand was very slow on fleece wools, with scattered sales of three-eighths and quarter blood grades. Combing bright three-eighths and quarter blood sold occasionally at 46 to 47 cents, in the grease. Some interest was shown in combing three-eighths and quarter blood semibright fleeces at 40 to 43 cents.

Moderate action was noted in combing greasy three-eighths blood territory wools at 90-93 cents, scoured basis. Sales of greasy wools of this grade were hampered somewhat by sizable quantities of similar wools that had been scoured and offered at 95-97 cents. Fine half and quarter blood territory wools were in fair demand. Short-to-average French combing length fine territory wools in original bags sold at \$1 to \$1.02.

A fair amount of Texas wool has been moving recently. Twelve-month wools brought \$1.05 to \$1.10. Short wools with staple less than the usual twelve months' growth and eight-month greasy wool found some outlet at \$1.03-\$1.05. Scoured eight-month Texas wool made \$1.07-\$1.10.

Very little business was transacted in mohair. Quotations were unchanged. Offerings of adult Texas mohair in original bags were scarce at 62-63 cents. Texas kid mohair was available at 85-90 cents in original bags, but the trade was quiet.

Occasional sales of fine Australian wools were closed at \$1-\$1.04, scoured basis, including duty. South American fine wools were quoted at 95 cents to \$1, including duty, while twelve-month fine South African wool made \$1.03 to \$1.05, including duty. Medium crossbred South African wools, duty included, were quoted at 90-93 cents for three-eighths blood and at 85-90 cents for quarter blood.

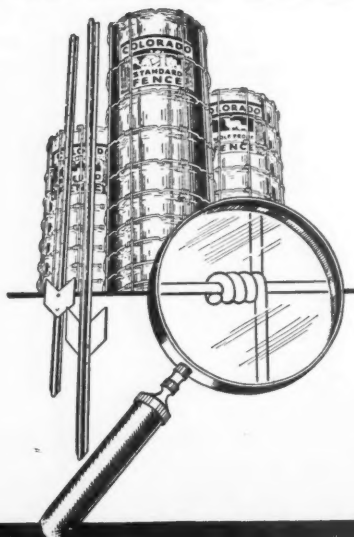
HIDES SLOW UNDER NEW 15-CENT CEILING

By H. W. F.

THERE WAS SOME SLOWNESS TO the hide market all month, and with ceiling prices established around the middle of June on the maximum basis of 15 cents a pound for the best cattle hides it left values at a lower level than prevailed before this action. Undoubtedly some losses developed, as at one time best prices were around 17 cents and above. Now that the market has been stabilized, price changes may be unimportant and could work slightly downward, certainly not above the set levels.

The production of shoes in May was estimated at 41,000,000 pairs, or 36 per cent above May, 1940, and a new high for the year. Production for the first

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five months of the year was given as 201,527,000 pairs—an increase of 19.9 per cent over the corresponding period in 1940. It is predicted that for the entire year of 1941 shoe production will establish a new record.

Shoes for civilians will not cost less because of the recent drop in hides to the ceiling prices ordered by the defense price administrator. Shoes going on sale this autumn are the product of hides costing 11 to 15 cents, and on the average stand below the 15-cent maximum. Shoes purchased by the federal government for use of the armed forces and the men in training will continue to form a liberal share of the business of the manufacturers.

The average price of packer hides at Chicago for the year of 1940 was \$11.26 against \$11.04 a year earlier, while the 1940 average price at that point of country hides was \$11.63 against \$10.66 in 1939. Current prices for hides are much above the corresponding level of a year ago, the advance measuring generally 2½ to 5 cents for cattle hides but showed less upturn for calf skins.

Around mid-July the prevailing market quotation for heavy native steer, extra light, butt brand, heavy Texas, Colorado, and for light and heavy native cow as well as branded cow seemed to rest at 15 cents per pound, with native bull hides at 12 cents. Country hides of all weights were quoted at 11½ to 12 cents, with extremes placed at 14¼ cents and branded at 11¼ cents. Packer kipskins were quoted at 20 cents and packer calfskins at 23½ to 27 cents.

Hides and skins, which for many months have been second only to wool in import value, reached a record level for at least twenty years in April, when over 50,000,000 pounds were imported, according to the Department of Agriculture, raising the ten-month total to a point 37 per cent in advance of that reached a year previously. Accompanying this steep increase in quantity, however, was the relatively small rise of only 8 per cent in value as between the two periods. The wide spread between quantity and value increases may be explained at least partially by the fact that in the early months of the war a fear of scarcity boosted the price of cattle hides and calfskins, and to some extent that of goat and kidskins, whereas reaction during part of the latter of the ten-month periods made for considerably lower prices. Another factor was cessation in 1940 of imports of expensive calfskins from France and other European sources and an increase in the percentage of cheaper grades coming from South America.

From 1902 to 1940, the population of the United States increased only 66 per cent, but total public debt—federal, state, and local—expanded 1,774 per cent, according to the Bureau of the Census. Per capita total public debt grew from less than \$43 in 1902 to \$480 in 1940.

LIVESTOCK AT STOCKYARDS

	1941	June 1940	First six months 1941	First six months 1940
RECEIPTS—				
Cattle*	1,149,420	962,783	6,542,289	5,934,870
Calves	474,652	498,746	2,738,675	2,828,313
Hogs	2,304,836	2,649,525	15,680,639	17,323,339
Sheep	1,778,936	1,687,383	9,981,872	10,158,769
TOTAL SHIPMENTS†—				
Cattle*	397,442	388,693	2,452,894	2,205,403
Calves	176,631	206,760	986,207	1,088,566
Hogs	582,094	718,179	4,072,436	4,695,818
Sheep	833,938	779,476	4,244,944	4,358,273
STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS—				
Cattle*	173,797	155,627	1,207,702	974,186
Calves	54,483	60,213	341,995	326,151
Hogs	51,177	33,419	311,142	264,430
Sheep	150,475	132,495	824,982	748,924
SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION—				
Cattle*	867,141	737,974	4,941,911	4,571,180
Calves	439,832	436,897	2,686,735	2,651,864
Hogs	3,336,052	3,886,395	23,312,972	25,000,774
Sheep	1,378,099	1,377,823	8,789,755	8,329,300

*Exclusive of calves. †Includes stockers and feeders.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK PRICES

	July 15, 1941	June 16, 1941	July 15, 1940
Slaughter Steers—Choice (1,100-1,500 lbs.)	\$10.75-12.25	\$10.50-12.50	\$10.75-12.00
Slaughter Steers	10.25-11.50	10.25-11.25	9.75-11.00
Slaughter Steers—Ch. (900-1,100 lbs.)	11.50-12.25	11.50-12.50	10.75-11.50
Slaughter Steers—Good	10.50-11.50	10.50-11.50	9.75-10.75
Slaughter Steers—Med. (750-1,300 lbs.)	9.25-10.50	9.25-10.50	8.50- 9.75
Fed Young Steers—Gd.-Ch. (750-900 lbs.)	10.75-12.25	10.50-12.50	9.75-11.25
Heifers—Good-Choice	10.50-12.00	10.00-11.75	9.25-11.00
Cows—Good	8.25- 9.00	8.25- 9.00	6.75- 8.00
Vealers—Good-Choice	11.00-12.75	10.00-11.50	9.75-10.75
Calves—Good-Choice	8.50-10.50	8.50-10.50	7.50- 9.00
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Good-Choice	10.00-12.00	9.75-12.00	8.50-10.50
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Com.-Med.	7.75-10.00	7.75-10.25	7.00- 8.50
Hogs—Medium Weights (200-240 lbs.)	11.40-11.65	9.85-10.00	6.50- 6.75
Spring Lambs—Good-Choice	11.10-11.50	11.00-11.60	9.00- 9.75
Yearling Wethers (Shorn)—Good-Choice	8.75- 9.50		7.00- 8.00
Ewes—Good-Choice	3.75- 4.75*	3.50- 4.50	2.50- 3.75*

*Shorn

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

	July 1, 1941†	June 1, 1941	July 1, 1940	Five-Yr. Av.
Frozen Beef	54,417,000	60,646,000	35,762,000	30,142,000
Cured Beef*	13,911,000	15,585,000	10,210,000	13,466,000
Lamb and Mutton, Frozen	3,633,000	4,130,000	3,254,000	2,106,000
Frozen Pork	326,214,000	390,282,000	262,401,000	171,501,000
Dry Salt Pork*	105,703,000	120,517,000	91,783,000	86,473,000
Pickled Pork*	273,224,000	287,656,000	244,338,000	247,342,000
Miscellaneous	74,538,000	76,737,000	79,368,000	67,179,000
Total Meats	851,640,000	955,553,000	727,116,000	618,209,000
Lard	367,911,000	366,086,000	306,774,000	174,623,000
Frozen Poultry	85,874,000	87,433,000	82,336,000	64,693,000
Creamery Butter	120,278,000	56,792,000	81,005,000	98,203,000
Eggs (case equivalent)	11,547,000	9,434,000	11,809,000	11,309,000

*Cured or in process of cure. †Subject to revision.

CHICAGO WHOLESALE DRESSED MEATS

	July 15, 1941	June 16, 1941	July 15, 1940
FRESH BEEF AND VEAL—			
Steer—Choice (700 lbs. up)	\$16.50-17.50	\$16.50-18.00	\$17.50-18.50
Steer—Good	16.00-16.50	15.50-16.50	16.50-17.50
Steer—Choice (500-700 lbs.)	17.00-18.00	17.00-18.50	17.00-18.50
Steer—Good	16.50-17.00	16.00-17.00	16.50-17.50
Yearling Steer—Choice	17.50-18.50	17.00-18.50	17.00-18.50
Yearling Steer—Good	16.50-17.50	16.00-17.00	16.50-17.50
Cow—Commercial	13.50-14.00	14.00-14.50	13.50-15.00
Veal and Calf—Choice	16.00-19.00	15.00-18.00	14.00-17.00
Veal and Calf—Good	15.50-18.00	14.00-17.00	13.00-15.00
FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON—			
Spring Lamb—Choice (all weights)	21.00-23.00	23.00-24.00	18.00-19.00
Spring Lamb—Good	19.00-22.00	22.00-23.00	16.00-18.00
Yearling Lamb—Good (all weights)	16.00-18.00		15.00-16.00
Ewe—Good	9.50-10.50	9.50-10.50	7.00- 8.00
Ewe—Commercial	8.50- 9.50	8.50- 9.50	
FRESH PORK CUTS—			
Loins—8-12 lb. average	23.50-25.00	21.00-22.50	17.00-18.00

MORE NEWS FROM OHIO AND MICHIGAN

By DAVID I. DAY

HERE ARE SOME ADDITIONAL facts about Ohio which I had to leave out last month because of space limitations. The big state summer meeting of the purebred Hereford organization was one of the real red-letter events of Ohio in July, but circumstances prevented my attendance. It was held at the Chaswill Farms near Cincinnati. A comparatively new herd there was inspected, especially the young animals which include many future herd sires of real conformation and correct breeding.



In Darke County, mainly a dairy community, there are several good purebred breeding herds—Angus, Red Polls, and Shorthorn. All the Herefords seen in that vicinity were westerns and, for the most part, doing fine. The only beef organization in the county, the Beef Calf Club, is composed of twenty boys feeding out fifty-five whiteface calves this summer. They are doing a neat job for the most part. Pastures are good, grain is plentiful, and a certain amount of cottonseed meal and soybean meal is supplementing the farm grain and grass.

So on up the highway to Van Wert, a good business town. Five outstanding whiteface feeders are operating near-by; also quite a number of small groups of cattle on feed, all whitefaces, nearly. Men with Shorthorn and Angus feeders can find a receptive market in that vicinity. Several asked for good sources of supply. Next stop was Paulding. Several good feeders live near Paulding and there are several small feeders in this vicinity, some of whom said they planned a little more extensive operation in 1942.

The last town of any consequence visited in Ohio was Bryan—a pretty little city of 5,000 in the extreme northwestern corner of the state. Beef feeding there cannot be classed as a major enterprise but quite a few men are in the business successfully. Around Stryker, Edon, and Montpelier are to be seen quite a few purebred and grade herds of Milking Shorthorns. In fact, this dual-purpose breed is making plenty of new friends all up the Indiana-Ohio line and, to a certain extent, they figure in the local beef situation.

"So far as feeder calves are concerned," said one young farmer, "we get good ones at Chicago, Kansas City, and St. Paul. A good many folks here purchase calves through the Luginbill Livestock Auction at Archbold, Ohio—a small place east of here. Quite a few of us have held our cattle too long. I could have sold at 12 cents a good while ago

but the market has been bad ever since. My cattle are around 1,300 pounds now and plenty fat, so I am going to let them go in August. Gains are getting mighty expensive to make. Next year I think I will move them with a little shorter feed—you don't have so much money wrapped up in them."

All the way up Ohio, a good deal of conversation turned on the Chicago and other cattle markets. Despite the generally higher market, the first ten days of July witnessed lower tops—\$12 and lower. However, the offering of long-feds was plainer as a rule. In fact, considering prices previously paid for much smoother kinds, men in the alleys daily at all points say the animals sold well.

The complaints concerning high feeder prices are not so audible as last winter and spring, despite the recent unsatisfactory trends on the fatter animals at the leading markets. The abundance of grass everywhere, the grain carryover, the bumper wheat crop, and the promise of a bumper corn crop if rains continue all combine to make farmers anxious to have something to feed. Present unrest regarding feeder cattle prices is being utilized by purebred breeders who encourage farmers to establish their own small beef herds. So far as I have talked to the purebred men, their sales talks must be clicking—many are virtually sold out of bull calves.

In quite a few communities, farmers are looking for polled bulls to help out with the dehorning job in the small farm herds. Red Polled, Polled Shorthorn, and the Aberdeen-Angus men are selling everything they will part with. The Polled Herefords are attracting attention, too. A farmer showed me thirty-three calves sired by a Polled Hereford—and all calves were hornless, or practically so. Said the farmer: "That young bull is doing a fine job, and I appreciate it. Dehorning calves is the most disagreeable of all farm jobs to me."

From Bryan we motored over a fine highway to Toledo for a day of sight-seeing in that interesting city. It has nearly 300,000 population and is said to be the world's largest coal port. We were shown the fine municipal zoo at Walbridge Park, north of the city, on Maumee Bay. There are fine bathing beaches and other features of a great public park. The Museum of Art on Monroe Street is one thing that no visitor to Toledo should miss.

Then over U. S. 25 to Monroe, Michigan. This is a city of some 18,000 people on Lake Erie. I was particularly interested in the General Custer monument. The house in which he lived has been moved from its old location. When the Custers lived there it stood where the post office now stands.

All around the city are alfalfa and bluegrass pastures and some alfalfa-brome pastures, too. The most important grain is corn. Some little alfalfa silage is fed to beef cattle but more corn silage. I never saw a trench silo in a day's drive. More feeders are using soy-

bean meal to supplement grain and roughage in the cattle feed-lots. Some cottonseed meal is used, however. Some little beet pulp is being fed and more molasses is used every year. There is a sugar beet factory near-by, and this is having effect upon beef feeding practice.

About all the feeder cattle observed came from the West, but here and there can be located feeder calves from Canada. This has been the case, I was told, for some three or four years past. Being under heavy pressure to meet appointments farther west, I did not talk to a great many farmers in this locality. Those I did talk to were feeding fat cattle and wondering if they would break even. One fellow said the only hope of a profit he had was from the hogs following the cattle. However, most of the men considered this situation due to bad marketing judgment on their part and will be in the market for more feeder calves this fall.

From Monroe we made our way by state road to Adrian, west and a little to the south. Adrian is the county seat of Lenawee County—about the best agricultural county in Michigan. All around are beautiful hills and many lakes of glacial origin. Approximately 10,000 steers are fed out there for the eastern markets every year. Practically all are westerns. After the animals are fattened, they are marketed in Buffalo, Toledo, and Cleveland.

The Cattle Feeders' Day with the big banquet is a red-letter occasion of the beef farmers' year in that part of the world. A great many feeders have a great many ideas about how to put more fat on a steer at less cost—and I will take up these opinions next month. R. J. Laser, the 4-H Club agent of the county, is busy with the fifty-two project steers being fed by the club boys and girls.

It seems odd, but some months ago, when the feed-lot man had everything pretty much in his favor, there was a lot of grousing all over the Corn Belt. Now, when owners of big, fat, long-fed cattle are rather on the spot and undecided often as to the next step, there is comparatively little complaining. Not much was said about feeder calves being too high, although there are some who plan to establish beef cow herds as soon as possible. A few months ago, about all that farmers wanted to talk about was high-priced feeder calves.

En route to Hillsdale, I talked to a farmer who had just arrived from Chicago with a little bunch of two-way cattle he had bought under \$11. He had plenty of grain and alfalfa pasture, and the animals looked capable of putting on fast gains. He stated that the number of stockers and feeders in the Windy City the day before had been surprisingly small. Most of the calves and yearlings were southwesterns, some green steers purchasable at around \$10. The market looked to him about steady, and it was his opinion that grass being good in the West there would be no big supply seen on midwestern markets for some time.

ROUND THE RANGE

WESTERN RANGE CONDITION REPORTED AT RECORD HIGH

CONDITION OF WESTERN RANGES on July 1 was the highest reported for that month in nineteen years of record, according to the Denver office of the Agricultural Marketing Service. Feed was reported as good to excellent. Range forage conditions were very good in all the states. Livestock was in the best condition in many years.

Ranges improved during June, except in Arizona and California, where well-cured feed was in abundance. Utah ranges showed a slight seasonal drop in condition but range feed was very good to excellent. Sufficient rains had fallen to make very good summer feed and a good growth on fall and winter ranges. Some higher ranges were reported a little late. Stock water was ample, with generally good soil moisture conditions.

Ranges showed a marked improvement and were generally very good to excellent in the northern Great Plains states of Montana, Wyoming, and the Dakotas. Western Nebraska, western Kansas, Oklahoma, and eastern Colorado reported very good ranges and pastures. Oklahoma and Texas had the best pasture and range feed in many years, and prospects there for late summer and fall feed were excellent. New Mexico range conditions were excellent—highest for July in the nineteen years of record. Idaho, Oregon, and Washington reported very good range conditions, with an excellent growth of cured feed on the lower ranges. Nevada had excellent summer range feed. Arizona had very good feed and browse and a large crop of cured feed. The California range feed situation remained unusually favorable, with an abundance of mature feed on lower areas.

Condition of ranges for July 1 was 95 per cent, compared with 93 per cent on June 1, 85 per cent a year ago, and 81 per cent for the 1931-40 average.

Cattle were reported as being in the highest condition for July since 1926. Generally the calf crop was very good and calves had developed unusually well. Cattle sales and contracts were reported as rather limited, with some contracting of calves for fall delivery. Generally the tendency to sell or contract was rather limited. The federal experts believed that cattle for summer and fall delivery should show good weights and finish if the feed hardens. Feed and water conditions were very good in the Osage-Flint Hills section and cattle had done very well. Marketing of grass-fat cattle in California was delayed because of late season and weakening of price in June.

Sheep and lambs were reported in very good condition, having made good

gains in June. They showed the highest condition since 1927. Summer feed was generally very good on the northern sheep ranges, but some mountain ranges were late. A good crop of late lambs made better than usual gains. Rank growth of feed and some parasite trouble in Texas kept sheep and lambs from the expected gains. Early lambs in the Northwest made excellent gains. Washington lambs moved a little early. The Idaho movement was smaller than last year.

The West is celebrating one of its finest water years in a generation, according to Commissioner John C. Page, of the Bureau of Reclamation. "Information from the field shows that with the exception of the Northwest and some isolated sections, water conditions are exceptionally good," he said, "and federal reclamation reservoirs are impounding the largest storage in their history."

CONCERNING RULING ON TIERRA DEL FUEGO

(Continued from page 16)

Your action in this matter clearly violates the intent of Congress, and we believe also any reasonable interpretation of the act as passed. It also is contrary to the long-standing policy of this government with relation to imports of meat products from any country where foot-and-mouth disease exists.

"I should like to call your attention to the fact that since the first rigid embargo was established on January 1, 1927, we have had only one slight outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in this country, and that occurred in 1929 among garbage-fed hogs in California, the disease being brought to them by garbage from a ship just returned from Buenos Aires, the same being unloaded in vio-

lation of existing BAI regulations. Since that slight outbreak, we have had twelve years of complete freedom from the disease, the longest such period since the beginning of the twentieth century.

"The livestock industry has done everything it can to co-operate with the defense program of the administration. We realize that we can make no greater contribution to this program than to insure an adequate and continuing supply of meat. Not only is there imposed on us this responsibility, but Secretary Wickard is likewise looking ahead to the time when at the conclusion of the war it will be up to this country temporarily to feed a devastated Europe.

"If you do not set aside this opinion, there will be increasing pressure from South America for further evasions of our present embargo, and there will be added to the demands from that source like demands from many of the other countries in the world—fifty or sixty in all—which harbor foot-and-mouth disease. In many instances you will find island possessions located in relation to the mainland just as Tierra del Fuego is in relation to Argentina. The precedent is a dangerous one. Now of all times we should take no possible chance of bringing ruin to our own livestock industry; and, as stated above, it has been clearly demonstrated that the one way to protect it is to maintain a rigid and complete embargo.

"In fairness to the livestock industry, and in order to insure that Secretary Wickard's program of keeping available an adequate supply of foods is not seriously disrupted, we urge you to reconsider this matter and to set aside the opinion of May 16."

To Secretary of Agriculture Wickard, who will no doubt now get requests from other foot-and-mouth disease infected countries to okeh their "free areas," Secretary Mollin addressed a letter which we quote in part:

"From the very fact that news dispatches from Argentina show that that country is highly elated over the Attorney General's opinion of May 16 and

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that they herald it as the opening break in our sanitary embargo, we can be sure that once this precedent is established the pressure on you will increase. There is not the slightest doubt as to the purpose of the Argentine government. It is to establish a market in this country for dressed beef. We cannot afford to monkey with importations from any portion of any country where the disease exists, and the subterfuge employed in this instance does no credit to the conceivers thereof.

"On behalf of the livestock industry—the greatest industry in this country—we urge you to do all in your power, now that the matter is held in suspension, to insure that the bars are not let down even to importations from Tierra del Fuego. In no other fashion can you safeguard the interests of the industry and prevent a clamor from some of the other countries in the world which have foot-and-mouth disease (and there are more than fifty of the major countries in this class), many of which have island possessions similarly located as Tierra del Fuego is in relation to the main continent, to permit shipments from those islands. If we are adequately to protect the herds and flocks of this country, we must have an absolute embargo, applying alike to all countries (not subdivided by subterfuge) where foot-and-mouth disease exists; and now of all times, when you are striving mightily to insure a food supply that will not only take care of this country but of a devastated Europe as well, we should not even think of taking a step that might easily invite a national calamity of the first order."

Another letter, this one directed to Dr. John R. Mohler, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, and written by J. Elmer Brock, president of the American National Live Stock Association, recently returned from South America,

contains further remarks on the subject.

"I am very hopeful that with the new information which has been furnished to the Attorney General relative to this matter, he will see fit to set aside the opinion. . . . In the event that the opinion is not set aside, I wish to direct your attention to the fact that a very grave responsibility is imposed upon the Secretary of Agriculture in connection with this matter. Having returned from Argentina only a few weeks ago, I think I realize the responsibility that will be shouldered by your department more than almost anyone else in this country. I do not see how you could possibly certify that any part of Argentina, including Tierra del Fuego, was sufficiently free of foot-and-mouth disease to warrant accepting shipments of dressed meat therefrom. I do not think there is any question but that dressed beef from portions of Argentina about which there is no effort made to deny the presence of foot-and-mouth disease is regularly sent to Tierra del Fuego; and we also understand that bucks from such known infected territories are likewise sent into southern Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego for breeding purposes. As you well know, there are numerous ways in which this disease can be transmitted. When one recalls the swift spread of the disease in the United States in 1914, when in a comparatively short time it spread from Niles, Michigan, to twenty-two states and the District of Columbia—going as far west as the State of Washington, as far south as the State of Kansas, and, as shown above, to the Atlantic Ocean on the east, despite the best efforts of your fine department to check its spread—it can readily be seen that the danger in Argentina would be a thousandfold greater than here. There is no pretense to a sanitary set-up in that country that in any way compares with yours. There are numerous birds down there, eaters of carrion, that can spread the disease swiftly and to great distances. There are wild animals in plentiful numbers that are a distinct menace on this score.

"I urge you first, to counsel in favor of maintaining the status quo and setting aside the opinion of May 16; second, in event this is not done, that you exercise the same caution that was employed from January 1, 1927, to June, 1930, under which a complete embargo was maintained. In view of the trust imposed in you by the livestock industry of this country and of the grave issues involved at this time, I do not see how you could do otherwise."

PUBLIC LANDS HEARINGS HELD AT ELKO AND ELY

HEARINGS ON MATTERS PERTAINING to the administration of the public domain, originally scheduled for last fall, were opened at Ely, Nevada, on June 24 by the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Surveys headed by Chairman Pat McCarran.

Those in attendance included officials of the Grazing Service and the Forest Service and stockmen.

In the *National Wool Grower*, we read that most of the discussion at the Ely meeting dealt with the seventy-five-day

commensurate property rule proposed for that district for 1942, which required operators to possess a land base, either on leased or controlled land, that would take care of their stock for seventy-five days off the federal range. Discussion of the subject resulted in vacation by Grazing Director R. H. Rutledge of the rule in the Ely district.

The recent decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Nevada term permit suit was discussed at the Ely meeting and also at the Elko hearings. Other topics discussed at Elko were the drafting of the federal range code and the methods followed by the Grazing Service in calling together advisory boards of each district to make recommendations as to the code. It was shown in the testimony that the range code was "purely a stockman's code," recommended and drafted by the stockmen using the range.

The checkerboard areas embraced in railroad grants were discussed at Elko, as was the question of the priority period used by the Grazing Service in adjudicating grazing privileges.

The Johnson bill, S. 1030, was favored by several witnesses, livestock finances were discussed, and an amendment to section 2 of The Taylor Act was proposed by William Wright, president of the Nevada State Cattle Association, to the effect that section 2 or appropriations by Congress for carrying out the purposes of the act should not be construed as authorizing or ratifying acts by the secretary of the interior contrary to provisions of section 3 or any other section of the act.

ARMY-NAVY BEEF NEEDS SHOW SHARP UPTURN

MORE THAN 228,500,000 POUNDS of domestic beef and beef products will be purchased this fiscal year—which began July 1—for the Army and Navy, the Office of Production Management advises.

The purchases, based on present strength of the Army and Navy, will be approximately as follows:

	Pounds
Sliced dried beef.....	2,323,000
Beef content in corned beef hash	13,600,000
Beef content in Type C ration	6,000,000
Fresh beef (of which at least 40 per cent and probably more will be boned and frozen. Heifer beef eligible in this classification.).....	206,600,000

The list of anticipated purchases also includes 20,000,000 pounds of South American canned corned beef. However according to Douglas C. MacKeachie, deputy director of purchases in the OPM, "it is not expected that purchases of this item, based on present estimates, will run over 14,800,000 pounds."

Large quantities of fresh pork and lamb and canned pork products will also be bought.

The purchases are substantially above any made by the services last year be-

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cause of both the increase in strength and the increase in the ration of beef allowed and the use of the boneless beef which will greatly increase its consumption.

BULLETINS IN BRIEF

PACKERS INDICTED

A federal grand jury investigating alleged violations of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act in the food industry recently returned indictments charging three Chicago meat-packing firms—Wilson, Armour, and Swift—The American Meat Institute, the hog section of the Chicago subcommittee of the Joint Marketing Improvement Committee, and seven individuals with conspiracy to fix prices for hogs purchased at direct buying points in the Middle West and shipped to Chicago for slaughter. A federal grand jury had previously indicted the same three packing houses, the Institute, the sheep section of the Joint Marketing Improvement Committee, and seven individuals on charges of conspiracy to fix prices of sheep sold on the markets in violation of anti-trust statutes. The packing industry through individual companies and through the Institute denied violation of anti-trust laws in its activities on the Chicago sheep market, and issued general denials that there have been any laws violated or that there were any agreements of any kind to influence the sale of hogs or the price at which hogs are sold.

WHEAT GROWERS PROTEST

Wheat growers in various parts of the country are protesting against the new AAA limitations of farmers' sale or use of wheat in excess of quotas. In Ohio two suits were filed in federal district court, calling the legislation unconstitutional, confiscatory, and unenforceable and asking injunctions. In Indiana an association was organized for the purpose of preventing the government from putting into effect the 49 cents per bushel penalty on wheat grown in excess of allotments, because, according to a representative of the group, farmers were told that the penalty would be only 15 cents instead of the ruinous 49 cents. Other growers said they felt they were not properly informed of the provisions of the program, some believing the control sign-up entirely voluntary. Other objection was that "the government changes the rules in the middle of the game."

COVER PICTURE

The cover picture shows James Luster, cattleman of the western slope, driving his cattle to shipping point near Fruita from Pinon Mesa summer range in Colorado Grazing District No. 7. The trail was originally built as a wagon road in 1908 and used as a route for hauling equipment and supplies during the construction of the Fruita municipal water system. After it had served its immediate purpose it was allowed to deteriorate. In 1936 the Grazing Service CCC camp at Grand Junction refurbished it as a stock trail. The elevation at this point is about 2,000 feet above the Colorado River. The Book Cliffs north of Grand Valley are obscured by haze and clouds. A number of cattle operators on the Pinon Mesa and Little Dolores River use this trail.

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CANADIAN HOG IMPORTS

Shipments of Canadian hogs to the United States continue despite rises in price granted by the Canadian bacon board to prevent this movement. On May 2 and May 30, the bacon board raised the prices to packers for hog products put into cure for export to the United Kingdom. Exports of live hogs to the United States as a result of the higher prices in this country in the period January 1-June 19, 1941, totaled 18,751 head, whereas none were shipped during the same period of 1940. The bulk of the hogs, or 14,491 head, were shipped from British Columbia, only 2,026 head being shipped from Ontario.

CATTLE FROM CANADA FALL OFF

Canadian cattle exports to the United States during the second quarter of 1941 continue to be less than half as large as the quarterly low-duty quota of 51,720 head for heavy cattle. This year the number exported to the United States will be even smaller than in 1940 and is expected to be nearly 100,000 less than the annual quota of 193,950 head, according to agricultural attache C. C. Taylor at Ottawa. Shipment of calves to the United States so far this year has also been at a reduced rate.

WOOD TICK PLAGUE

In the past, herds in eastern Montana have been bothered very little with wood ticks, but this year their number has increased to serious proportions. So much blood has been lost by many of the cattle that their appetites are impaired as a result and they are reluctant to move even for grazing. The hide of a yearling steer in an inspected herd, according to Dr. W. J. Butler, state veterinarian, produced enough of the engorged parasites to fill a four-pound lard bucket. Western Montana cattle have been plagued with the ticks in the past.

STEER PRICES IN ARGENTINA

Fixed live-weight prices paid at ranches in Argentina by packing companies for steers, effective January 27, 1941, were: Chiller steers—first grade, \$3.78 per cwt.; second grade, \$3.42; freezers—B grade continentals, \$3.22; continentals (suitable for the preparation of boneless beef for the United Kingdom), \$3; canners—in central plants, \$2.70; in regional plants, \$2.36.

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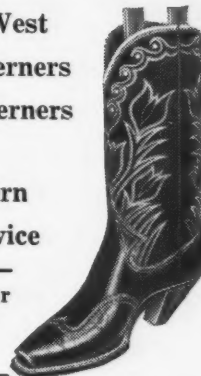
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VACCINATION OF HORSES URGED

Sleeping sickness of horses has already been reported again this year in Colorado, according to Dr. James Farquharson, of the Colorado State College veterinary division. He said that horses not yet inoculated should be vaccinated immediately. The disease ordinarily appears about August 10 to 15. The practical value of chick-embryo vaccine has been proved, he explained. The disease is transmitted by insects and disappears soon after frost kills the insect carriers in the fall, usually about October 20 to November 1. Symptoms of the disease vary a great deal, but a rapid loss of weight and excessive dehydration or "drying out" is pronounced in all cases.

LETTERS

GENEROUS MOISTURE

We have been experiencing very wet weather for the past two weeks, some of it in the form of hail which has caused some temporary damage in cutting down grass and our alfalfa. Just a little too wet for haying. However, we are not complaining and in fact are most thankful for the generous moisture. Ranges are in wonderful condition (June 30) and, I think, stock water is more plentiful than it has been for a good many years.—C. D. TERRETT, Rosebud County, Mont.

SCREWWORMS PLENTIFUL

Good rains spotted over south Texas, but some rain fell in most sections. Grass is beginning to brown. Cattle are doing nicely. Many report screwworms plentiful. Looks like ranchmen are going to have an opportunity to give the new "Formula 62" a good workout.—VACHEL W. LACKEY, Bexar County, Tex.

BEST RANGE

Range is the best in the Grand Ronde valley for years. Stock of all kinds is in A-1 condition. Quite an amount of hay spoiled on account of heavy rains throughout June and the early part of July. All of the first cutting was badly damaged.—CYRUS WILLIAMS, Union County, Ore.

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- 1.00 Sheep Breeder
- 1.00 The Sheepman
- .50 Wool Sack (comm. wool growers)
- .50 Sou. California Rancher
- 1.00 Red Polled (Cattle) News, 2 yrs.
- 1.50 Northwest Fruit Grower
- .50 Fletcher's Farming
- 1.00 American Bee Journal
- 1.00 Beekeepers Item
- 1.00 Gleanings in Bee Culture
- .50 National Live Stock Producer
- .50 Florida Poultryman and Stockman
- 1.00 The Westerner (livestock)
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LITTLE RAIN

We have had very little rain so far but plenty of feed from the winter pasture. Will say that Charles E. Collins' letter in your July number is a fine one. It expressed my sentiment exactly.—JOHN T. COX, Catron County, N. M.

BEST RANGE

Range conditions here are the best since 1935, with plenty of moisture at present. Most all ranchers are starting to hay, with a good crop of hay in practically all valleys in this section.—C. E. DALY, McPherson County, Neb.

NEED MORE RAIN

We have had a very good spring and summer so far. There is a very small hay crop over most of this country but plenty of feed. Cattle are doing fine. We are in need of more rain in our part of the country.—JAMES SPENCER, Niobrara County, Wyo.

ABUNDANT RAIN

Livestock conditions are very good in this section this year. The rainfall has been more than normal, which has been very good for pastures.—GAIL CORBETT, Oklahoma County, Okla.

First summer rain came July 17, and it looks like more will follow. Cattle are in good shape. However, worms are very bad, but prices offset a few worms.—CLAUDE FOSTER, Graham County, Ariz.

Range conditions are the best ever. Quite a few mixed bunches of calves contracted at 10 cents and some at 11 cents. I don't want to miss an issue of the PRODUCER.—W. R. MCKNIGHT, Chaves County, N. M.

I think you have a fine magazine, and we will be glad to have it at our ranch.—MILDRED HALE WALLIN, Philadelphia, Pa.

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